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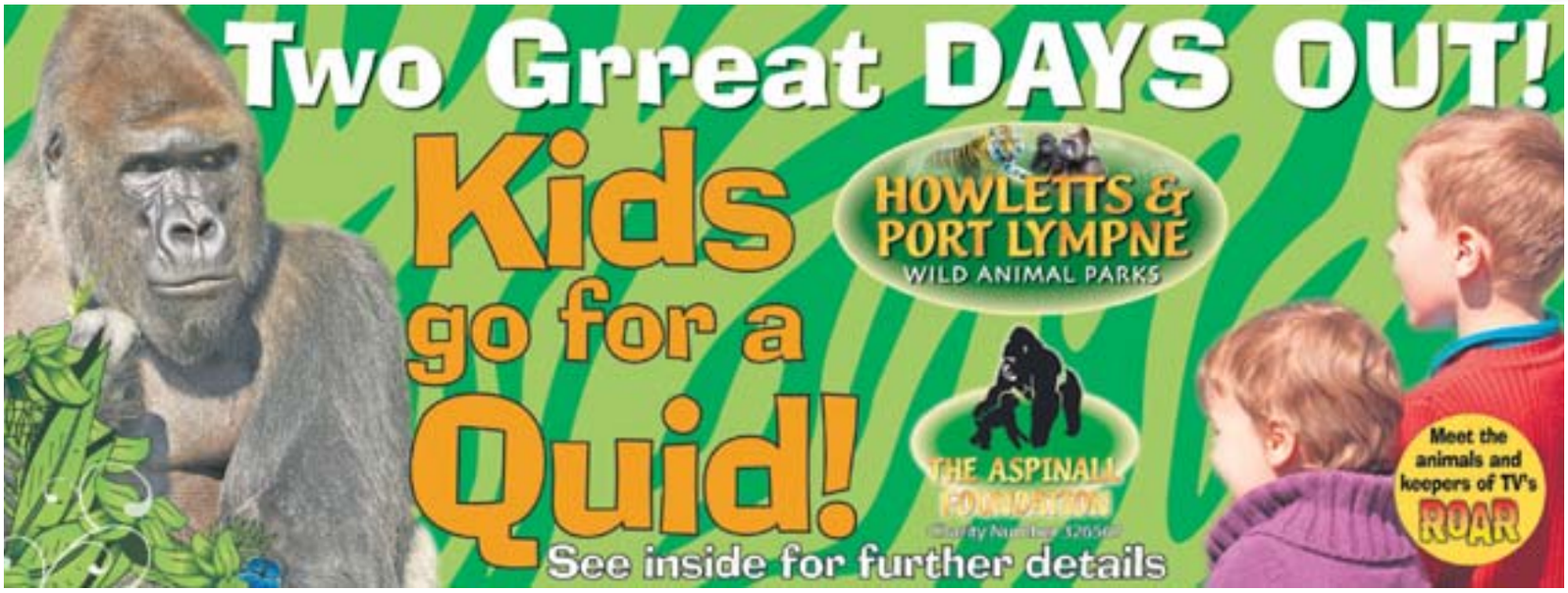


BBC ASBESTOS FILM SPARKS PARENT FEARS

But schoolchildren are actually safer than they are 'in their own homes,' says expert

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

CHILDREN are safer from exposure to asbestos in Kent schools than they are in the outside world, according to a building expert for the county authority.

Peter Binnie, head of operations for Kent County Council's Property Group, which manages the authority's estate, sought to reassure parents after a BBC South East investigation revealed that 92 per cent of the schools in the county contain asbestos.

He said: "Schools in Kent have asbestos in them but it is managed, controlled and identified in a very stringent way so there is minimal risk to pupils and teachers.

"Children are better protected there than they are out in their own homes."

Freedom of Information requests revealed that the deadly material is present in 554 of Kent's 559 schools and at 111 of the 116 schools in Medway.

Exposure to asbestos fibres can cause mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the lung or more rarely of the abdomen, it remain undetectable for up to 50 years after exposure and is virtually always fatal.

Dr Alaistair Stewart, a consultant chest physician and the Kent lead on mesothelioma, said: "If the asbestos is truly well managed then this is a storm in a tea cup.

"But the problem is that we don't really know if it is."

He called for an independent body to regulate asbestos in schools, find where it is and whether it was safe.

"Where the concern really arises is around the fact that the Government has passed responsibility to the schools to assess whether it poses a risk.

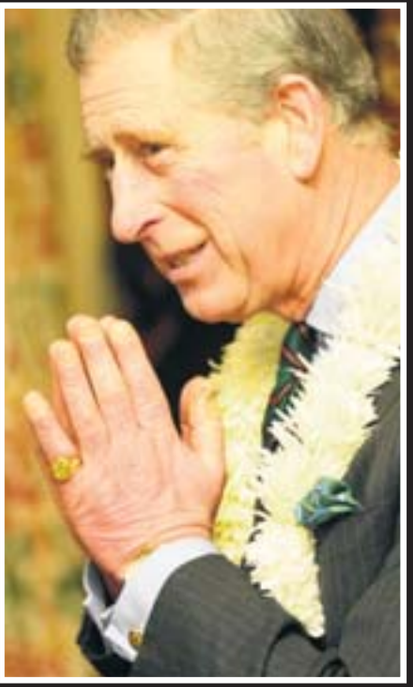
"Schools say no we have not got a problem but there is not actually anyone checking whether it is solid enough and cannot be disturbed."

Dr Stewart said the amount of asbestos exposure needed to cause mesothelioma was unknown although it usually occurs in people who have been exposed to small amounts for many years or through really intense exposure.

Mr Binnie told how asbestos is present, especially in rural areas in garages and sheds, and was used in ceilings and wall

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Picture: KMG



Charles lends his support to the Gurkhas

THE families of Kent-based Gurkhas received a welcome boost when The Prince of Wales visited Folkestone barracks this week.

FOR MORE SEE INSIDE

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Killer asbestos in county's schools

FROM FRONT PAGE

boarding in homes and other buildings more than 20 years old. KCC and Medway Council said schools were inspected regularly and asbestos management registers were held showing where the hazardous material is found and in what form.

The authorities in the US and Ireland are removing asbestos from all schools and the National Union of Teachers has called for the same precaution to be taken in the UK.

Dr Robin Howie, the asbestos consultant who featured in the programme which was aired on BBC1's Inside Out on Wednesday, said the numbers of teachers dying of asbestos-related illnesses in the UK had risen.

He said this was the "tip of the iceberg" and the iceberg was the children who could have mesothelioma. Mr Binnie said even the schools rebuilding and refurbishment programme would not spell the complete end for asbestos in all schools and that enclosed in walls or ceilings would be left unless it posed a risk or was exposed. He said: "A close friend of mine has asbestosis. I have worked with asbestos for more than 30 years so I'm a potential victim of mesothelioma in the years to come. But you do not know where you have contracted it, it could be schools or it could be somewhere else."

UNDER WRAPS: Asbestos survey team as seen on the BBC's Inside Out programme

He said he would not be angry if he had contracted an asbestos-related illness before the dangers were known.

"We manage it and look after it now so I would be angry if I was exposed now" he added. "But I have no issue going into any of our schools and I do not think our children or teachers are at risk."

Solid asbestos is quite safe unless it is broken up or damaged and the fibres are released and breathed in.

Estuary airport plan encounters more flak

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
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A STUDY in support of London Mayor Boris Johnson's plans for an airport off the Kent coast has fuelled further criticism of the idea.

Earlier this week Mr Johnson unveiled more details of his £40 billion off-shore airport suggestion, but convinced few in Kent that such a proposal would be less damaging than a third runway at Heathrow.

His plan involves splitting the airport in two off the coast of the Isle of Sheppey, with runways on two separate islands in the mouth of the Thames. Passengers would shuttle between the islands in a tunnel below the seabed, running from Essex on the north bank to Kent on the south. The feasibility study was carried out by leading airport engineer Douglas Oakervee, who joined Mr Johnson on a boat trip to the area last week.

Mr Johnson said: "Coming here has put paid to talk of a fantasy island. You get a sense of just how far the airport would be from the shore. I'm convinced this is an option and the Government's decision on Heathrow makes it all the more urgent that we come up with alternatives."

Mr Johnson's proposals for an offshore airport call for two estuary terminals that would be served by road and rail links.

The larger terminal, in Kent, would be connected to Crossrail and the high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link, taking passengers to London in about 35 minutes. The rail connections to Europe would cut out the need for many short-haul flights.

Despite the Mayor's optimism that such a scheme could work, others were not so sure. Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said he would fight any proposals to build an airport off the coast.

"Environmentally and ecologically, it's a very bad idea to build an airport off one of the most beautiful coastlines in the South East," he said. "To say it would be an eyesore is an understatement. It would be horrendous."

ALL AT SEA: Boris Johnson

Speaking at a debate on the future of Heathrow in the House of Commons on Wednesday, North Thanet MP Roger Gale also criticised his fellow Tory's idea.

He said: "I am not a fan or a supporter of Boris Island and I do not believe it is a realistic option. Setting aside the fact it would be necessary to remove a recently constructed wind farm to build it, that it would be necessary to persuade tens of thousands of migratory birds to change their habits and that it would be necessary to restructure the traffic of shipping using the Thames, I am sure it is an idea that should be considered and then dismissed."

Mr Gale added that the proposed expansion of Manston airport would be a better way to alleviate the pressure on Heathrow.

However, airport operator BAA felt its third runway plan was the only way to go.

Spokesman Damon Hunt said: "While Manston does have a regional role to play, it clearly does not have the capacity for the level of use that would be generated if a new airport was approved."

Mr Hunt said Mr Johnson's idea would also not work due to the high risk of bird strike on the Thames Estuary and the large cost to the taxpayer of carrying out the scheme.

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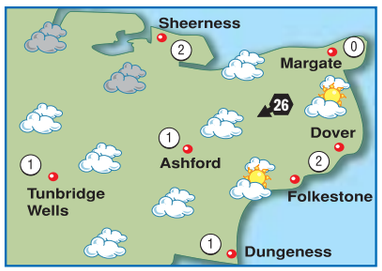

TODAY: A mainly dry day with some sunshine, but cloud will gradually increase. Scattered snow showers later in eastern areas. Strong northeasterly winds. Max temp 0-2C (32-36F). **TONIGHT:** Clear intervals and scattered snow showers. A sharp frost. Strong northeasterly winds. Min temp -3 to 0C (27-32F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	4	39	London	sun	4	39
Belfast	fair	3	37	Liverpool	cloudy	2	36
Birmingham	fair	4	39	Manchester	cloudy	3	37
B'mouth	cloudy	2	36	Newcastle	cloudy	3	37
Bristol	cloudy	4	39	Norwich	cloudy	2	36
Cardiff	fair	3	37	Oxford	cloudy	2	36
Cork	rain	5	41	Southsea	fair	3	37
Edinburgh	cloudy	3	37	S'hampton	sun	4	39
Glasgow	fair	5	41	Southport	sun	3	37
Isle of Man	fair	4	39	Swansea	fair	4	39
Leeds	cloudy	2	36	Torquay	showers	4	39

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.34am	Sunset	4.44pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	9.14am	Moonset	–	4.44pm to 7.32am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	02.08	6.5	14.26	6.1	02.47	6.3	15.12	6.0
Margate	03.00	4.6	15.33	4.3	03.41	4.5	16.18	4.2
St Mary's	08.08	5.2	20.25	5.0	08.49	5.0	21.11	4.7

Week ahead

monday Snow at times. max 3C min 0C

tuesday Patchy rain. max 4C min 0C

wednesday Rain at times. max 6C min 2C

thursday Dull and wet. max 7C min 0C

friday Bright, chilly. max 5C min -1C

saturday Wet and windy. max 8C min 2C

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Coastal authority confident wood will be reported – despite rumours in Thanet

Timber taken from beaches 'being sold at 50p a plank'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

BRITAIN'S coastal authority says it is confident that people who removed lost timber from Kent's beaches will report their hauls.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is hopeful most of the 500-tonne load that washed up between Ramsgate and Broadstairs last month will eventually be accounted for.

However, that confidence could prove to be unfounded if rumours that some of the wood has already turned up on industrial estates for as little as 50p per plank are true.

The load, which is owned by Swedish firm Rorvik Timber, fell overboard the Russian vessel Sinegorsk as it made its way to Alexandria, Egypt.

The MCA's Mark Clark said: "It's too early to say how much of the load will be reported because it is still coming ashore.

"People have about 28 days to register what they have collected with us, so it will be at least another two months before we know what we're dealing with.

"This sort of thing has happened in the past – when the Kodima lost its load off Cornwall in 2001 – and plenty of people reported what they had gathered. One person had about seven tonnes of it.

"I doubt the owners of the wood will want it back as it is, but they might want to mulch it down into MDF."

Rorvik Timber's insurers WK Webster declined to comment. Failure to report timber removed from Thanet's beaches could result in fines of up to £2,500, but warnings its owners may want the wood back went largely unheeded. One man, who did not want to be named, was putting planks into his motorhome at Ramsgate's East Cliff.

He said: "I'm going to dry it out and build a garden playhouse for my kids. This is my fifth trip. I've been here all night. The wood's good and ideal for what I want it for."

Thanet council's deputy chief executive John Bunnett left the scavengers off his list of acknowledgements when he marked the end of the clean-up operation.

He said: "This has been an excellent example of the council working in partnership with the police, the MCA and Kent County Council to deal with this problem.

"The response was speedy and the fact the clean-up was completed so quickly is a tribute to everyone involved. I'd like to thank all who played a part in this operation."

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To see this clip search 'crunch'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Presenter Julie Maddocks shows you how to recycle and save cash. Search 'crunch'

Devastated dad pays tribute to 'rising star'

A COMMUNITY has vowed to take action against speeding traffic on a notorious road where a 16-year-old was fatally injured, ***writes Tony Patey.***

Bromley lad Josh Callaghan died after an accident with a car outside a school between Northfleet and Gravesend last weekend. Now campaigners want to curb drivers speeding along London Road, which has been the scene of four fatalities in five years.

POPULAR: Josh Callaghan

Residents rushed to the aid of Josh after the accident which happened as he, his father Tim and a friend were walking near Rosherville Primary School. Josh was rushed to hospital but died hours later. There are four schools along the road and on Wednesday one of them – Northfleet Nursery School – held a meeting of residents, police, governors and Kent Highways staff.

They discussed ideas such as speed cameras, pelican crossings and the possibility of local people using equipment to check speeds. The speed limit is 40mph.

Head teacher Panna Nagar said the meeting had been planned for some time. "It is so tragic this latest accident happened before it took place," she said.

Rosherville head teacher Nasib Cheema said: "Parents have complained for a long time about the speeding.

"We have asked for a lower limit but they say it meets requirements."

Devastated Mr Callaghan, of Canon Road, paid tribute to his son: "Josh was a gifted and popular boy who is going to be missed.

"He loved music and could play the drums, guitar and bass. He had a large circle of friends and was a loving son and brother – a bright star who had far to go," he said.

Police were taking any flowers left outside Rosherville to Bromley's Ravens Wood School, where Josh was a year 11 music and drama student.

Head teacher Dr George Berwick said: "The best words used to describe Josh are warm, bubbly, energetic, enthusiastic, mature and friendly. His death will affect us all."

Two cars were involved in the accident, which closed the road between 4pm and 10pm on Saturday, January 24.

The driver of a Vauxhall Vectra, who comes from Rochester, was treated at Darent Valley Hospital and later released.

Police would like to speak with the driver of a small silver vehicle, believed to have been following the car which collided with Josh.

Sgt Glen Braidwood, of Kent Police's serious crash investigation unit, said: "The driver could have information which will help us piece together what happened. I urge them to get in touch as soon as possible."

Call 01622 798538 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555111.

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Soldiers and their families welcome Colonel-in-Chief to barracks

Celebration and sadness as prince visits Gurkhas

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Prince of Wales lent his support to Kent-based Gurkhas fighting in Afghanistan when he paid a visit to their families back home.

Sir John Moore Barracks in Folkestone was the location for Wednesday's royal visit, where the prince also met with four soldiers seriously injured while serving in the war-torn country.

He even took time out to hold a private meeting with Uma Dura – the widow of Colour Sergeant Krishna Dura, who died in a roadside bombing last November.

C/Sgt Dura, 36, was the second Gurkha killed in Afghanistan in the space of two weeks following the death of his comrade Rifleman Yubraj Rai, 28.

Prince Charles, who is the Rifles' Colonel-in-Chief, also received an update on the soldiers' progress abroad.

Major Chris Conroy told him: "We were very unlucky to lose two of the guys before Christmas.

"It's very hard for the families, as would be expected, but we're lucky here that there is a strong community both in the Gurkha community and the local community in Folkestone who can offer considerable support."

The Prince was also presented with flower garlands from C/Sgt Dura's children, Krishtina and Kerbina, as well as other youngsters associated with the regiment.

The royal visit came as the Home Office prepared to announce details of its new policy regarding Gurkhas' rights to settle in the UK.

Last September, High Court judges ruled that the current system of allowing only those soldiers who retired after 1997 to remain in this country was unlawful, and ordered the Home Office to come up with new rules.

According to the Times, a new policy is due to be unveiled "shortly" that could lead to up to 36,000 Gurkha soldiers and their families swapping Nepal for new homes in the UK.

However, earlier this month actress and Gurkha rights campaigner Joanna Lumley accused the Ministry of Defence of exaggerating the numbers.

She said: "The MoD is making wildly exaggerated claims that as many as 50,000 may come. The Home Affairs Select Committee took evidence on this matter last year, and the figure is more likely to be between 3,000 and 5,000.

"Let's face it – even if the MoD's figure was correct, all these retired Gurkhas have earned the right to settle here by serving and fighting in our Army."

A spokesman said the Home Office was still considering its policy changes to ensure they would be fair for all Gurkhas.

CONCERN: Prince Charles talks to one of four Gurkhas injured Afghanistan

Pictures: PAUL DENNIS, KM GROUP, AND ELEANOR JONES, KRNM

UPDATE: Prince Charles was briefed on how Gurkhas serving in Afghanistan are coping

COLOURFUL: Gurkha wives (left) and children donned traditional dress for the prince's visit

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DOCUMENTARY: Sir David Attenborough charts Charles Darwin's revolutionary theory

An evolutionary journey begins at Down House

HOW Charles Darwin's theory of evolution revolutionised the way we see and understand the world is explored in a new documentary by Sir David Attenborough.

In the programme on BBC1 the broadcaster begins his journey at the great scientist's home at Down House, near Biggin Hill, in Kent and ends at the Natural History Museum in London.

The point is made that Darwin has shown us we are not set apart from the natural world and do not have dominion over it – we are subject to its laws and processes as other animals are too, the makers said.

The documentary is part of the BBC's celebrations of the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th of the publication of On the Origin of the Species.

His theories in the groundbreaking book, which was radical and very controversial at the time, set out the idea of natural selection.

It was written at his family home near Biggin Hill and he used the garden as an 'outdoor laboratory' to study nature and conduct experiments.

Darwin's discoveries were shocking because at the time people believed God had created the world in seven days and evolution was the antithesis to this creationism belief.

Sir David revealed this week that he receives hate mail from viewers for not crediting God in his documentaries on the natural world.

Talking about creationism being taught alongside evolution as an alternative idea, he told the Radio Times magazine: "It's like saying that two and two equals four, but if you wish to believe it, it could also be five ... Evolution is not a theory; it is a fact, every bit as much as the historical fact William the Conqueror landed in 1066."

• ***Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life, BBC1, 9pm tonight.***

A national inquiry has revealed that one in 15 young people in the UK are currently self-harming. Jacky Levy from Kent organisation Depaul UK speaks to **MARIJKE COX** about a new online service designed to help sufferers.

Opening our eyes to a harmful problem

FIVE years ago staff at Depaul UK in Gravesend opened their doors to a young girl who had problems with self-harming.

The 16-year-old, who had suffered years of abuse and spent time in care, always made sure her body was covered to hide the brutal scars she had caused over the years.

Volunteers and staff at the hostel, which cares for homeless young people, worked closely with the teenager and just two years later she walked out wearing a sleeveless top and skirt, unafraid to show off her body. She is now in a stable relationship and has a son.

Jacky Levy, project manager at the hostel, said this success story is one of many out of the hundreds of young people they have cared for over the years.

She said: "We help those aged between 16 to 21, from all walks of life and with diverse problems. We give them space and develop relationships. One of the major things we do is bring humour into their lives."

Ms Levy, who joined the Gravesend branch of Depaul UK six years ago, said self-harm is a common occurrence with their residents.

"Sometimes they keep it a secret, sometimes they tell us, but one of the things we must do is make sure they harm in a safe way. If we are aware then we can make sure they don't use dirty knives and razors as well as working towards helping them stop.

"Some are so damaged they don't feel emotion and they do it as a way to remind themselves they exist. It makes them feel alive somehow – it's very sad."

One of their residents is Diane. She came to one of the hostels aged 18 after leaving her family and ending up homeless.

She would frequently self-harm, but after the organisation put her in touch with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service, they helped her build her confidence and get a voluntary placement at a local vet.

Although Diane is unable to live independently, she has reduced her self-harming and they have organised a specialist home for her.

Ms Levy said: "Everyone we have helped has kept in contact with us. They really start to open up and we develop relationships which makes them realise they are liked. One of the problems is they think they are not. We have a high success rate."

As part of their work, Depaul UK has teamed up with youth mental health charity 42nd Street and online communications charity YouthNet, to provide an online service to help those who self-harm.

A national inquiry found one in 15 young people in the UK are currently self-harming and despite it previously being a taboo subject, more and more people want help.

Fiona Dawe, chief executive of YouthNet, said: "Never before has there been such a comprehensive offering of self-harm advice and information, combined with peer-to-peer support, available online.

"By working with people affected, we have been able to create fantastic visual, audio and written content which is interesting and inclusive – allowing us to get help for people how they want it, when they need it."

See www.TheSite.org/selfharm for details.

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KENT ON SUNDAY Kentish Saturday Observer

Drums instrumental for a healthy lifestyle

Percussion helps to boost fitness

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

DRUMS and cymbals will replace weights and treadmills at a special workshop promoting healthy living through music.

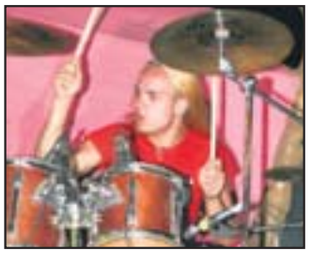
Experts at the Sidney De Haan research centre in Folkestone believe certain parts of the rock 'n' roll lifestyle – namely the constant movement involved with playing percussion instruments – can help the body recover from injury and illness.

Musician Simon Lee works with a large number of health groups throughout the county, and will lead a drumming workshop at the centre on Tuesday (February 3).

He said: "Western science has begun to look at activities that promote wellbeing and to assess their value to modern healthcare.

"A new interest has developed in drumming, rhythm-making and the role it has in healthy communities, and there is strong evidence to suggest it may actually be a healing activity.

"Some have gone so far as to prove that time spent drumming can positively affect our immune systems, levels of stress and psychological well-being.



CAN'T BEAT IT: Drumming workshop aims to promote a healthy lifestyle

"Hand-drumming circles, which originated on the festival scene and in community art groups, have become increasingly popular in the UK. Now drummers are being offered the chance to work in specialised health and social care settings."

The message behind Mr Lee's workshop is ironic because some of history's most talented drummers – such as Led Zeppelin's John Bonham and The Who's Keith Moon – lived extremely unhealthy lifestyles and died young as a result.

However, their downfall was more due to the pressures of fame and wealth, whereas Mr Lee has demonstrated in his work with mental health groups, recovering drug addicts and people with autism that percussion can benefit the body in a variety of ways.

Recently Mr Lee, who can also play the guitar and sing, has lent his expertise to the Trevor Gibbens mental health unit in Maidstone as well as Medway Primary Care Trust. He also leads team building workshops.

Mr Lee said: "Drumming can energise or relax. It can foster a sense of playfulness or release anger and tension and also help in the conquering of social isolation and the building of positive relationships."

The Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health is part of Canterbury Christ Church University, and is situated at the University Centre Folkestone.

Its primary aim is to promote the value of music and the arts for the wellbeing and health of individuals and communities.

• ***The workshop, which is free of charge, runs from 1pm-3pm. To book a place call Isobel Salisbury on 01303 220870.***

Sprinting PC halted drunk driver in car

A DRUNK man drove so slowly along Herne Bay High Street that a sprinting policeman was able to grab his keys from the ignition.

Officers had seen David Callan, 42, stagger across Bank Street and get into his green Micra Car.

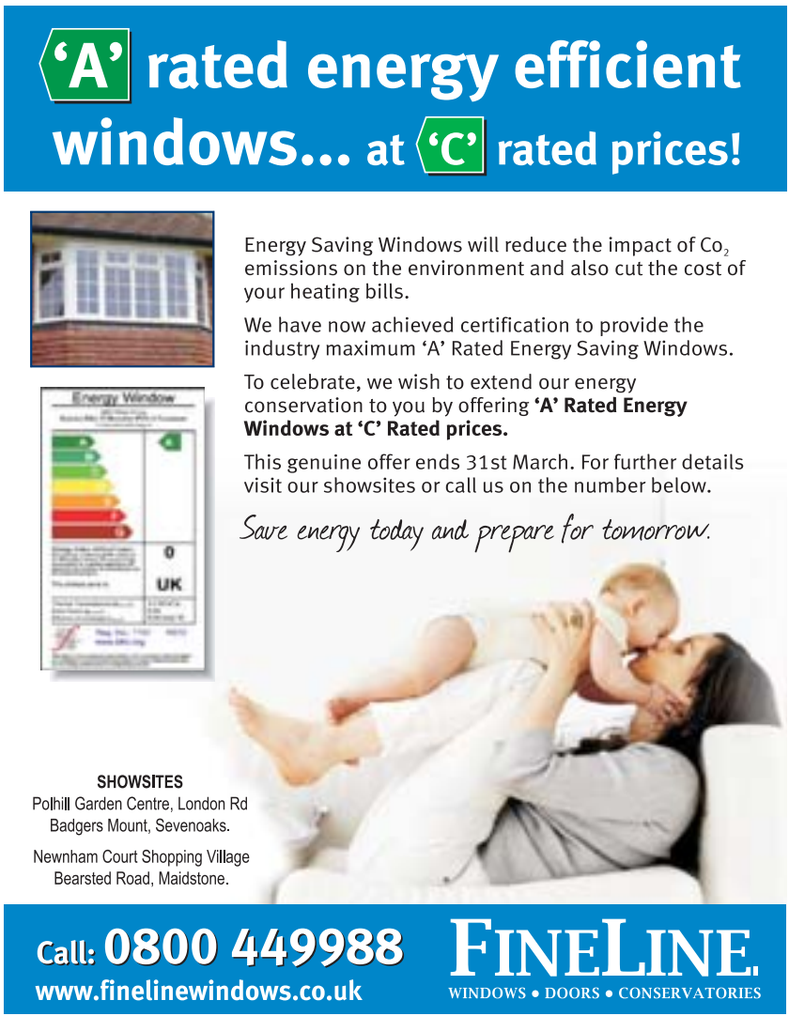
Canterbury Magistrates Court heard how the car weaved down the High Street. They got behind it but Mr Callan failed to stop.

Road side readings showed he was over two and a half times the legal limit.

John Patty, defending, said his client hit the bottle because his ten year marriage had broken up.

He said instead of walking the mile to his home in Holmscroft Road the postman drove because he didn't want to be late starting his rounds.

Callan, 42, was given 80 hours unpaid work,banned for two years and ordered to pay £60 costs.



Hospitals review

EXPERTS on changes to NHS services have visited the sites of controversial shake-up plans to hospitals.

Health Secretary Alan Johnson asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to review the proposals, which would include axing A&E and four other units including maternity at Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup (QMS), after local councillors refused them.

The IRP will be visiting the area to view the facilities and meet patients, clinicians and other staff at the hospital sites.

The proposals, which affect QMS and three Londin hospitals have been met with tough opposition.

The NHS faced criticism for a flawed consultation process and for basing the changes on finance over patients.

If you want to take part in the review call 0207 3898055 or email info@irpanel.org.uk.

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Give a helping hand

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

POSITIVE: People with learning disabilities, their carers and Cllr Graham Gibbens, KCC's cabinet member for adult social services (back row, second from right) at the re-launch

A PLACEMENT project that helps people with disabilities to live more independently is urging people to come forward to make-up for a shortage of carers.

The scheme, run by Kent County Council, has been described as "fostering for adults" and was re-launched at an event this week in the hope more people will volunteer their spare time and open their homes to people who need support.

"They're my best friends," said Denise Edge who has been living with Ian Longley and his family for around three years.

The 44-year-old, who has learning difficulties, was left with no one to care for her when her mother died and social services were ready to move her into a care home.

Mr Longley said: "I've got a small annex, which was empty after my daughter went to university. I was thinking how to use it and social services told me about the scheme."

After going through various checks and the application process, Mr Longley received a phone call saying that Ms Edge needed somewhere to stay and so they met and hit it off.

"Denise has control over her own life now, she shops on her own, which she never did before and that is a really big thing," he said.

He added that although Ms Edge had decided independent living was not for her, what had started as a three-week placement had turned into a permanent arrangement everyone was happy with.

Mr Longley continued: "If you are even slightly interested pick up the phone because it is such a positive thing to do.

"It is so useful because as parents get old their [disabled] children are suddenly left with nowhere to live. We desperately need more people to come on board. You just need to be caring and have common sense."

Claire Hunter, who works to recruit carers to the scheme, which has been running for nearly 20 years, added: "It is basically fostering for adults. It is for people with physical and learning disabilities and older people.

"It is about helping them develop skills such as washing and cooking and can help people move into independent living."

Cllr Graham Gibbens, KCC's cabinet member for adult social services, added: "Individuals can have a greater and more fulfilled life by living in people's homes and being part of a family.

"A lot of the carers themselves find it a fulfilling experience to help someone move on in their lives and become more independent. When you find the right mix of individual and carer it can be a very valuable system."

For more details see www.kent.gov.uk/adultplacementscheme or call 08458 247247 and ask for the adult placement team.

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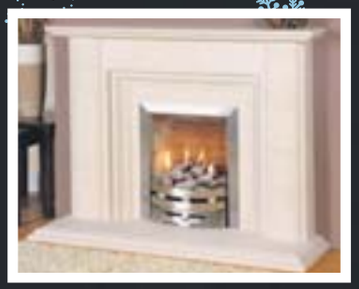

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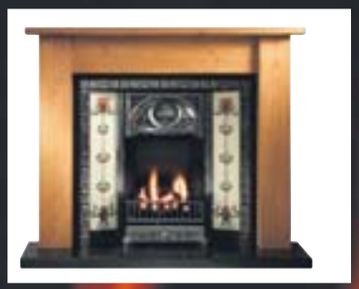

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By NICK AMES
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Sweet return for shop front

IT may just look like a regular, old-fashioned, shop window. But this is in fact a globe-trotting piece of one Kent town's heritage.

And after a remarkable trip across the Atlantic, it is now back and proving a big attraction at Faversham's museum.

The shop front of 4 Market Place, dates from the 1840s when it was the window into a popular confectionary store.

But in 1932 it was broken into bits and sold by an antiques dealer.

Incredibly, it had been snapped up by an entrepreneur who planned to show it off as an example of "a typical European shop façade" at a museum in Chicago where it became quite a popular attraction.

But in recent years the store front was taken off display and the owners of the museum eventually decided to sell it.

Museum chiefs contacted the New York branch of auctioneers Sotherby's who agreed to act on their behalf.

But in the meantime, they had also made contact with members of staff at the Faversham museum in Preston Street, who said they would like it back

So the auctioneers donated it to the town – and even picked up the shipping fee as well.

Now the window, with a series of notice boards telling the unusual story, is open to the public as part of the museum.

The display also recounts the businesses that occupied the address of 4 Market Place. It currently houses a Chinese restaurant.

Other attractions in the museum include recreations of shop interiors and a schoolroom, a display of wartime memorabilia and sporting equipment and trophies.

Historian Arthur Percival said: "Faversham has an extremely fascinating history, especially for a town of its size. In Elizabethan times William Shakespeare came to visit and one of the town's residents became a pirate who terrorised the Mediterranean before converting to Islam.

"Then there are the gunpowder works and railway as well as a lot of wartime activity."

The museum is offering a special deal for half term from Monday to Friday, February 16-20. There will be no charge for children during half term week but tickets for adults are £2 and for Senior citizens £1. The museum and gallery are open from 10am to 4pm, with last entry at 3pm.

For more details call 01795 590726 or email fleurmuseum@tiscali.co.uk.

Alternatively some attractions can be viewed at www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

Double trouble for cannabis brothers

IDENTICAL twins Craig and Bradley Horne are in the double trouble after they were caught growing cannabis.

Police caught the aroma of the drug when they made a routine call to the twins' home in Milbourne Grove, Sittingbourne, on October 29 last year.

As a result the pair, aged 22 , were charged with growing 20 cannabis plants in an upstairs room.

Margharita Mitchell, prosecuting, said Craig tried to make a run for it out of the back door but was grabbed by an officer.

Bradley took them upstairs and they discovered the tell-tale silver papered windows, fertiliser and chemicals used to grow the plants.

The pair pleaded guilty saying they were growing it for personal use.

Magistrates adjourned the case until February 16 for probation reports.

To see this clip search 'Greer' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Find out why the high street in our county town will be given a redesign

Server seized as judge threatened on news website

A GLOBAL news website has been targeted by Kent Police after the personal details of a crown court judge appeared online.

Indymedia, which promotes "radical, accurate and passionate tellings of truth", had one of its computer servers seized when users posted Judge Neil Butterfield's address and phone number along with a death threat.

The information appeared below an article on the Kent Police-led Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) investigation, which resulted in seven animal rights extremists sentenced to a total of 50 years in prison.

EXTREMIST: Daniel Wadham was one of the people sentenced by Judge Butterfield

Judge Butterfield was the man who decided on the punishments for the SHAC members, who intimidated companies associated with Cambridge-shire-based Hunting-don Life Sciences. One of those jailed was Daniel Wadham, 21, from Bromley, who received a five-year sentence.

A statement by Indymedia read: "The raid in which the server was seized is an attack on free speech and independent journalism in the UK, and especially on the grassroots, open-publishing platform that is Indymedia. The loss of a server represents serious damage to the Indymedia infrastructure in the UK."

Officers seized the equipment last Thursday from the Manchester-based internet service provider UK Grid.

According to Indymedia, police asked the site's volunteers to retain data about the person who posted Judge Butterfield's personal details. However, the group said that as an "open publishing project", it did not keep logs of the server activity.

While Indymedia users lamented their "loss of free speech" on the site's forums, others in the online community were more supportive of the decision to seize the server.

One post on another open-publishing site, Slashdot, read: "The SHAC protestors broke the law and are now rightly in jail. The person who posted the judge's personal information and a death threat also broke the law.

"If someone a forum posted information on where to find Barack Obama, and a death threat, would you expect that to be seized?"

A Kent Police spokesman confirmed it had seized computer equipment from a company in Manchester, adding: "The firm is being fully co-operative as we continue to investigate."

Young journalists reach for the Sky

Students get a little help from a Friend

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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JOURNALISM students at a university are set to benefit from a new annual scholarship in the name of legendary broadcaster Bob Friend.

Sky News chose the multimedia journalism degree offered at the University of Kent ahead of several universities around the country offering courses for budding reporters.

The winning student will have their first year's tuition fees paid as well as a four-week work placement at Sky News.

Mr Friend, a presenter on the 24-hour news channel from its launch in 1989 to his retirement in 2003, died aged 70 after suffering from a brain tumour in October last year.

Picture: KERRY GHAIS/SKY NEWS

John Ryley, the head of Sky News who will be presenting the new award on Friday, February 6, said: "Bob Friend was the origi-

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with anchorman memorial scholarship

LEARNING EXPERIENCE: Sky News has set up a scholarship in memory of 'the face of the channel' Bob Friend, left, to benefit journalism students at the University of Kent

nal face of Sky News, a fantastic journalist and a much-loved friend of his many colleagues at Sky News, the BBC and beyond.

"We are delighted to be able to announce this award in his honour – and are sure Bob would be proud to be helping young journalists get a foot up into the profession he was absolutely passionate about."

Mr Ryley will also give an inaugural Sky Bob Friend memorial lecture at the university's Medway campus.

Professor Tim Luckhurst, head of the journalism degree programme and a former editor of The Scotsman, began his career working for BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

He said; "I did not know Bob Friend when I was at the BBC, as I joined he left. But I was a big fan of the stuff he did for Sky News and listening back to the stories he covered for the BBC it was clear what a brilliant and creative journalist he was.

"He could do colour, whimsical and funny just as well as authoritative and serious."

Mr Friend, who was born in Rusthall near Tunbridge Wells, was also well-known for his great sense of humour.

He became a journalist at the age of 15 on the Tunbridge Wells Advertiser, having left the local grammar school, Skinners', with no qualifications. After national service he set up the West Kent News Agency before joining the BBC in 1967.

He was the BBC's first staff correspondent in Australia, worked for BBC Tokyo and in New York before joining the Sky News team.

His style was popular with audiences and he also impressed A-lister Tom Cruise, who gave him a cameo role in the film Mission Impossible. He also played himself in the blockbuster Independence Day.

Prof Luckhurst said his students were busy preparing their scholarship entries.

"They have to devise a schedule for a day of programming on a news channel combining TV, on-line and radio content," he said. "They have got to come up with a story that is plausible and justifies that sort of coverage."

The students also have to sit a news exam prepared by Sky News, based on the events of the last few weeks.

"We are not a media studies course," Prof Luckhurst added. "I'm preparing real journalists to work for real national networks."

Rob Kirk, editorial development manager at Sky, said: "We chose Kent because Bob was a man of Kent and we thought it appropriate a local university should be the beneficiary.

"We were also aware that it is a new course at Kent and we thought that was appropriate because Sky believes in innovation and development so it seemed like a marriage made in heaven.

"It is very important for us to stress that we live in a multi-platform age of TV, radio and online and we were impressed by what they are doing at Kent."

Speak out over Gateway plans

HUNDREDS are expected to turn up at a Kent County Council meeting to have their say on Kent International Gateway.

If KIG goes ahead a 275-acre road-rail freight interchange will be built in the Kent countryside near to the M20 junction eight at Bearsted and Hollingbourne.

Additional information has been added to the proposal, which has been opened for public comment.

KCC are urging people to come to the meeting on Monday at 7pm at Invicta Grammar School to share their views on the proposed freight depot.

This will be the last chance to speak out before Maidstone council's planning deadline on Friday, February 6.

• ***For more details call KCC community liaison manager Loic Flory on 01622 694217 or email loic.flory@kent.gov.uk.***

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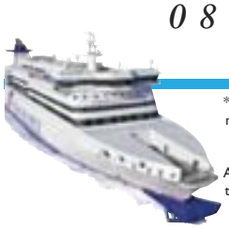

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Nephew's new book about 'bouncing bomb' pilot salutes Dambusters hero

TOP FLIGHT: Sqn Ldr Maltby is introduced to King George VI after the raids

By IAN READ
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

'Quiet man' who broke first dam of famous raid

IN A quiet corner of Kent lies a man who played a crucial part in the Dambusters raid.

Squadron Leader David Maltby DSO, DFC dropped the bouncing bomb which unleashed a deluge – but he is the forgotten Dambuster.

The bomb released from his Lancaster caused the breach in the Mohne Dam in Germany which opened the floodgates.

Yet four months later the quietly-spoken pilot was killed in a mid-air collision over the North Sea.

His was the only body recovered from the grey waters. No trace was ever found of the rest of his crew.

The fate of the young pilot and his comrades would have remained one of the many mysteries of World War Two but for his nephew, Charles Foster.

Mr Foster never knew his heroic uncle, but amid rumours of a new Dambusters film, he decided to research David Maltby's story.

The result is his book Breaking The Dams, which is a detailed biography of the young pilot and his men.

Mr Foster didn't realise the part his uncle had played in the raids until he saw The Dam Busters at the movies in 1961.

The young Mr Foster had read Paul Brickhill's book about the raid, but didn't realise the the full extent of his uncle's role until he saw George Baker's on-screen performance as David Maltby.

Mr Foster said: "In the cinema that day a prickle of recognition ran down the back of my neck, a feeling I've had countless times since.

"The pilot of the plane that broke the dam, David Maltby, was my uncle, the only brother of my aunt Audrey and my mother Jean."

Mr Foster has grown up with the mystique of the Dambusters.

He said: "People's perception of the raid comes from the film, but The Dam Busters deviates from the true story because the bouncing bomb was still on the secret list when it was made in 1955.

"It's ironic, because the Germans had an intact example on the day of the raid from one of the crashed aircraft, but were unable to figure out how it worked."

Mr Foster marvels at the skill and bravery of men such as his uncle who nightly flew in the face of almost certain death.

At the time of the raid, 23-year-old Sq Ldr Maltby already had a full tour of operations behind him. He was one of the RAF's top bomber pilots, which is why he was selected.

He was in the first wave of Lancasters hedge-hopping their way across Holland and Germany on that May night in 1943.

But for all his flying skill, he was to die jusat months later when his plane collided with a Mosquito light bomber in cloud over the North Sea.

He'd been married for 16 months and left a 10-week-old baby son, John.

Mr Foster spoke to the dwindling group of wartime fliers who knew his uncle.

He said: "They described him as tall and quiet, but with a sense of authority. They were very comfortable with him – he was a good pilot.

He'd never been very good at school or made his mark, but when the war came he found something he was good at.

"If he had survived he would have reached high rank in the Air Force."

When he landed after the famous raid, Sqn Ldr Maltby and his crew celebrated – but their joy at surviving was tempered by the sobering realisation that the crews of eight Lancasters wouldn't be coming back.

DAM AND BLAST: The Mohne after the attack by Sqn Ldr Maltby's Lancaster

He'd seen at least three of his friends shot down. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to Flight Commander.

Mr Foster was able to discover another side to his uncle, through the man who played him in The Dam Busters.

He said: "I heard George Baker being interviewed and he said David used to shoot at plates with his service revolver to let off steam.

"George was also disconcerted to find Charles Whitworth, the CO at Scampton at the time of the raid and advisor on the film, kept refering to him as 'Dave'. He found that very spooky."

David Maltby was buried in the quiet country churchyard at Wickhambreaux, near Canterbury – the same village church in which he had been married.

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Borough pride at clean streets

SWALE has some of the cleanest streets in the UK, according to an independent examiner.

The north Kent borough has one of the top performing councils in the country for street cleaning after receiving a 99 per cent pass rate in a cleanliness survey.

This study was carried out by Government-appointed inspectors as part of a National Indicator project which monitors conditions in towns and villages.

After receiving a five per cent failure rate – which was within the Government's satisfactory rate of 25 per cent – from April to July last year, the council managed to reduce the failure rate to just one per cent from August through to November. Street scene officers and street wardens have been working hard to tackle litter, graffiti and fly-posting.

Between April and November 2008, wardens issued 58 fixed penalty notices to those caught littering Swale's roads and paths.

Residents can call and register concerns about a road or area they feel is not being maintained to an acceptable standard, say council officers. This helps them focus on the areas that need particular help.

Cleansing services manager Alan Turner said: "We are proud of the results of this survey."

To report a litter problem in Swale, call 01795 417850.

M-way patrol cuts story angers police

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT Police have denied reports they are to pull routine traffic patrols from the county's motorways.

The force angrily dismissed a story on a local news website which claimed the roads were now safe enough to be policed less frequently, pointing out that it was in fact expanding its safety drive.

Editors of the site in question – which is not associated with KOS Media – were asked to either remove or correct the article earlier this week.

The number of people killed or seriously injured on Kent's highways has fallen steadily duting the last five years, from 1,321 in 2002 to 802 in 2007.

Police want this downward trend to continue and are increasing the number of patrols on roads where most accidents are occurring.

Dr Guy Rollinson, manager of the roads policing intelligence unit, said: "We have a legal responsibility to work towards a target of reducing the number of people killed and injured in road traffic collisions by 40 per cent by December 2010.

"We have virtually reached that target three years ahead of schedule with 39.9 per cent.

"I attribute this to a concerted push by Kent Police and all those who work hard to keep people safe on the roads. Their dedication is extraordinary. We want people to go about their daily business uninterrupted and drive home safely to their families."

Kent Police have been able to increase the number of patrols due to extra resources such as a second motorcycle team that was introduced in 2007.

High-speed main roads and dangerous rural routes are two areas likely to see an increased police presence. Ch Insp Roscoe Walford, head of the roads policing unit, explained the reasons behind the expansion: "We have used an intelligence-based approach to get the best use from our highly-skilled traffic resources towards the roads most in need for years," he said.

"Because our motorways are relatively safe, intelligence is telling us we now need to increase the number and type of roads we routinely patrol in order to further reduce collisions and casualties."

The extended safety drive will also see officers target those motorists deemed most at risk, including young males and motorcyclists.

They will also be keeping their eyes peeled for "high-risk behaviour" such as dangerous driving, speeding, drink driving, people speaking on mobile telephones without hands-free kits and those not wearing seatbelts.

News and sport updated daily online
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Club's own goal with memorial silence to living legend Tommy

THE former club of a leading player from amateur football's golden era has apologised for holding a minute's silence in his honour – because he isn't dead, ***writes Jon Coates***.

Tommy Farrer, 86, was still alive and kicking at his home in Maidstone, but that didn't stop County Durham side Bishop Auckland mistakenly paying their respects. About 2,000 fans solemnly bowed their heads in silence before a non-league match.

A tribute appeared in the North East town's local newspaper and the match programme stated: "We have just learned of the death of Two Blues legend Tommy Farrer. Our thoughts go to his family and friends."

But 287 miles away at his home in Maidstone, Mr Farrer had just celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary with wife Gladys.

Mr Farrer, who also won eight amateur international caps for England, told the Northern Echo: "We are not upset, but we did think it was a bit of a joke at first.

"Whoever it was who told people I had died contacted the club and they decided to go the whole hog by arranging the silence. I'm very moved they went to such trouble."

Wife Gladys, 87, said: "We're very sorry people have had all this hassle."

The club realised their mistake when chairman Terry Jackson rang Mrs Farrer to offer his condolences, only to be told Tommy had just popped out to get a paper.

After hearing of her husband's demise, a baffled Mrs Farrer told the chairman that if he cared to hang on for a minute, he could tell Mr Farrer himself, as he would soon be back from the shops.

Mr Farrer played for Bishop Auckland, who are now in the Northern League Division One, between 1945 and 1953, when the side were regarded as the best amateur team of their generation.

Mr Jackson said: "It was the first – and hopefully last – time this has happened. It was done with the best intentions.

"When anyone involved with the club passes away, we try to make sure there is some kind of remembrance.

"The news came via Bishop Auckland Social Club and we took it very seriously. But we had not been told the right information. We were keen to pay tribute and were victims of our own efficiency.

"We are glad to hear that Tommy is still with us and hope he remains in good health for many years."

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Police probe bloody online fight viewed by thousands

EXCLUSIVE

By SIMON ROBINSON

FIGHT CLUB: Scenes from the bare-knuckle fight in Chatham that was posted on YouTube

SHOCKING footage of an illegal bare-knuckle brawl between two shirtless fighters in Kent has been posted online.

And within hours of our sister paper Yourmedway breaking the story on Wednesday, the violent five-minute brawl was removed from the YouTube website.

But police launched an investigation after rumours that more fights were planned.

The brutal footage shows the two men exchanging dozens of heavy blows, watched by a baying mob.

The 'Bill Wright and Charlie Rumble' video, was posted on Sunday, January 18, and had attracted 5,000 viewings.

A second, longer video of the same fight had been watched more than 3,000 times.

Yourmedway contacted the police, who said they were aware of the clips and had opened an investigation. The daylight fight takes place at Barnfield, near Chatham Golf Centre and the Coney Banks playing fields.

More than 50 onlookers circle the fighters as they square off, screaming encouragement as the fists begin to fly.

After a few minutes the taller fighter, wearing grey tracksuit bottoms and black trainers, lands a number of heavy punches, leaving his opponent with blood pouring down his cheek.

The man in grey also connects with a powerful right kick, sending the other man sprawling.

However, after four more minutes of brawling the tall fighter eventually gives in, raising his hand as the shorter fighter comes towards him.

The men shake hands before turning to walk away. More than 20 YouTube members had posted messages underneath the clip.

One viewer wrote: "Good fight from both, but Bill gave up so Charlie won, end of."

Another added: "Apparently the reason Bill gave up is because he had blood in his mouth and couldn't breathe – another one for Wayfield anyway. Good fight, hoping for another."

Det Ch Insp Dominic Kilbride said: "Violence of any sort is unacceptable but what is also concerning about this is the people involved clearly do not realise there is risk of serious or fatal injury attached to bare-knuckle fighting.

"An investigation has begun and if anyone has information they can contact officers on 01634 792123, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."

Some people had wrongly suggested that Medway-based boxing coach Charlie Rumble, who has trained hopefuls at gyms across Kent, was one of the fighters.

KOS Media contacted Mr Rumble, who explained it was not him.

He said: "It's definitely not me. I'm 55 years old, why would I get involved in that?"

His wife has also contacted our offices to make it quite clear that it is not her husband in the clip.

The YouTube video has been removed from the website.

• A 19-year-old Chatham man was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the fight. He has been released on bail until March 3.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Free tickets to city broadcast

BBC Radio 4's Any Questions? will be broadcast from Canterbury this week.

Free tickets to watch the recording of the political radio show, in which questions from the audience are put to four panellists, are still available.

The show is broadcast live and attracts about 1.5 million listeners. It is presented by Jonathan Dimbleby, pictured above, although the panellists will be not be revealed until nearer the time.

Any Questions? will be recorded in the Cragg lecture theatre at the University for the Creative Arts, New Dover Road, on Friday.

To reserve a place, email events@ucreative.ac.uk, or call 01252 892682.

The broadcast goes on air just after 8pm. Audience members must be in their seats by 7.15pm.

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Going wild by the roadside

Kent's roadside verges may not be an obvious place to find wildlife, but did you know that they actually support and house a significant part of the county's threatened habitats and wildlife? The wildlife you can find ranges from rare wild orchids to threatened reptiles such as adders.

That's why the Kent Road Verge Project was set up in 1994. The project is Kent Highway Services working with Kent Wildlife Trust to identify, protect and maintain roadside nature reserves. A Road Verge Officer works with volunteers to look after 130 roadside nature reserves across the county, which total 55 miles of wildlife habitat.

These roadside reserve areas range from ancient woodland to chalk grassland and heathland. Some are home to various species of wild orchid such as the Greater Butterfly Orchid and others are home to mammals including badgers and dormice. The reserves serve as a corridor for other wildlife too, so they can move about safely.

You can identify these reserves by a blue butterfly sign at the side of the road. The Bluebell Hill reserve supports eight different types of orchid, which attract a variety of insects. The Adonis Blue Butterfly was recorded on the site for the first time in 2007 and common lizards are also known to frequent the site.

There is also a unique project at Lydden Hill Roadside Nature Reserves where areas of scrub have been cleared and cattle are grazing the land.

Look out for the butterfly signs next time you're travelling in Kent - wildlife could be closer than you think!

Assessing the impact

At a time when a lot of construction work is slowing down, Kent Highway Services is still delivering its service, including the planning and preparation of improvement schemes and major projects.

Even if you can't see works happening on the ground, the preparation process is still going on. Most major schemes take some time from planning to actual construction on site and a large part of the background work is the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The assessment means that planners have all the relevant information before a project is put forward for approval and any adverse impacts of the scheme can be dealt with at the design stage.

We have to look at the impacts of any major schemes on natural resources such as water, wildlife and the landscape. At the design stage, we may need to include pollution prevention systems, provision of new wildlife habitat and landscape planting as part of new schemes. That way, we can make sure that new schemes to benefit Kent residents do as little as damage as possible to Kent's environment.

You can find out more about the way we work online at **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

Bringing in the auditors to keep Kent safe!

A road safety audit doesn't sound very exciting, but it plays a major role in any design improvement works being carried out on the county's roads.

Road safety audits are part of road safety engineering. They use a mixture of knowledge about road user behaviour, vehicles, weather and lighting conditions and the highway design to make sure that any changes to the road layout improve safety as much as possible.

These audits are carried out throughout the planning and design process, to take account of any changes or developments along the way.

An audit is first carried out at the outline design stage, then at the detailed design stage and once a scheme has been put in place, we check it again before anyone uses it. We also go back once the new layout is being used to identify any issues and make changes where necessary.

Your feedback is important to the audit process too. If you're using a new layout on one of Kent's roads and want to give us feedback, you can contact us on **08458 247 800.**

Travel Update

Kent Highway Services

These are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

District	Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Shepway	Current	9.2.09	Hawkins Road, Cheriton, Folkestone	Road closure - gas mains works
Tunbridge Wells	2.2.09	6.2.09	High Street, Rusthall	Temporary traffic lights - carriageway works
Maidstone	2.2.09	6.2.09	Hollingbourne Hill, Hollingbourne	Temporary traffic lights - carriageway works
Sevenoaks	2.2.09	16.2.09	Childsbridge Lane, Seal	Temporary traffic lights - carriageway works
Canterbury	2.2.09	20.2.09	Kingsdown Park/Tankerton Road, Whitstable	Temporary traffic lights - sewer mains works
Thanet	6.2.09	2.11.09	A256 Sandwich Road, Ramsgate	Temporary traffic lights - energy supply works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Awards night will recognise greenest firms

KENT companies that want to shout about their environmental credentials are being urged to enter the Environment Awards for Kent Business 2009.

As well as highlighting environmental work the awards also reward companies that have had a positive impact in the community.

During their 21-year history the awards have drawn entries from hundreds of organisations of all sizes from many sectors.

Keith Ferrin, Kent County Council's cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, said: "With the economic downturn, it is even more important at this time to share best practice and applaud environmental systems which are of benefit to all."

This year the black-tie awards ceremony, which will be held at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe, on September 24, will recognise the top five entries as well as the Kent Environment Business of the Year 2009.

The current holder of the title is Stone Circle Livery of Woodchurch, near Ashford, which was the UK's first and only fully organic horse livery yard.

The family-owned business was recognised for careful land management and work creating new habitat and woodland, restoring ponds and recreating wildflower meadows not widely seen in Britan since medieval times.

Energy company EON has become a sponsor for the first time. Other sponsors are Kent County Council, Business Link and the Environment Agency.

Entries must be submitted before April 30.

Details are available by calling 01622 221859 or by logging on to www.kent.gov.uk/environmentawards.

New book dismisses bishop's views over 'racial segregation'

RACE ROW: Nazir-Ali

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

THE Bishop of Rochester has refused to comment on an accusation he is "promoting racial segregation".

The claim comes from researchers at a Manchester university who say race relations in Britain are under threat from a series of ill-informed myths.

Using previously unpublished evidence, Professor Ludi Simpson and Dr Nissa Finney show how repeated falsehoods about immigration, integration and segregation are misguiding policy and promoting racial disharmony.

After years of investigation the pair say in their book, Sleepwalking to Segregation? Challenging Myths about Race and Migration, they found no evidence "whatsoever" for the existence of race ghettos in the UK.

In fact, they say the opposite is true, with increasing ethnic mixing.

And claims by head of equalities watchdog Trevor Phillips that Britain is "sleepwalking" into racial and religious segregation are also dismissed in the book.

According to the academics' review of evidence, 'white flight' – where the white population leaves increasingly multi-ethnic towns and cities – is no greater than brown or black flight.

The authors also provide evidence that areas with large populations of Muslims do not act as a breeding ground for terrorism.

Prof Simpson said: "By propagating myths using alarmist interpretations of population change, individuals such as Trevor Phillips, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester and Sir Andrew Green, chair of Migration Watch are inadvertently promoting racial segregation. Misunderstanding breeds mistrust and division between ethnic and religious groups. This book is about dispelling those myths."

A year ago Dr Nazir-Ali, Britain's only Asian bishop, said Islamic extremists had created no-go areas in Britain where it was too dangerous for non-Muslims to enter.

He said people of a different races and faiths faced physical attack if they lived or worked in communities dominated by a strict Muslim ideology.

He told The Times newspaper: "Everyone agrees that multiculturalism has had disastrous consequences, and that segregation and extremism have arisen from this."

Dr Finney added: "The only concentrations which resemble anything like ghettos are of white people. The average white person lives in an area which has more than 94 per cent white people in it.

"In almost every city with a sizeable immigrant settlement area, children of immigrants have on balance moved away from those areas not to them or between them.

A spokesman for the bishop said: "I don't think we have anything to add at this stage."

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Give a gift of IT

A CHARITY in Kent has urged people to donate their unwanted PCs, laptops, notebooks and monitors to students in Africa.

Computers 4 Africa, based in Maidstone, said the continent had the lowest rate of PC ownership per capita in the world. The charity is holding a collection in Tun-bridge Wells next weekend so people drop off unwanted computers and other hardware.

A spokesman said: "Only the wealthiest have access to IT equipment and training. The donation of your PC will help reverse this, so as many African students as possible will have access to IT equipment."

You can drop off computer equipment at the Ex Mazda Unit, Longfield Road, Tunbridge Wells on February 6 and 7 from 9am to 5pm.

For more about the charity visit www.computers4africa.org.uk or call 0845 2008510.

Different class is good for our mental health

THE CONTROVERSIAL reclassification of cannabis to a class B substance has been welcomed by a couple from Kent with first hand knowledge of the devastating mental illness it can cause.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

Jacqui Smith, the Home Secretary, announced plans last summer to impose tougher penalties on the drug because of research linking its use to schizophrenia and other mental health disorders.

New laws reclassifying cannabis as a class B drug from its previous class C status came into force this week and it now carries a maximum prison sentence for possession of five years.

Coordinators for a Kent branch of the national mental health charity Rethink, Stephen and Liz Wood, told how their son, now in his 30s, developed schizophrenia after regularly smoking cannabis.

"We feel the reclassification is justified," Mr Wood said. "It gives the right message. The tragedy of mental illness cannot be emphasised enough."

In the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act cannabis was graded B, the same as amphetamines, but in 2004 the then home secretary David Blunkett downgraded it to class C, the lowest classification.

The harm done by cannabis was thought to be less than other class B drugs and the aim was to free police officers to concentrate on more serious drugs.

But Ms Smith said the 2004 decision would be reversed, despite the recommendations of the independent Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD).

SKUNK: Police seizures of cannabis are increasingly of the super-strength strains

Mr Wood said: "From experience we have no doubt cannabis can cause mental illness. However there are degrees of susceptibility."

He said although few people in the total population are affected by this it still impacted on stretched mental health services.

Experts say that between 8 and 13 per cent of schizophrenia cases are linked to cannabis use. In the UK, one per cent of the population, 600,000 people, have schizophrenia, which means up to 78,000 people have the illness due to smoking cannabis.

A 2007 review of research into the the drug and mental illness in The Lancet medical journal found frequency of use increases the risk of psychotic illness by up to 40 per cent.

• Names have been changed to protect the identity of the family's son.

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Showground plans alarm CPRE amid society ballot

KENT'S branch of the UK's biggest countryside protection body is "very concerned" about plans for the County Showground at Detling which have sparked a leadership contest.

Kent Agricultural Society members are voting on whether chairman George Jessel, who supports at least some expansion, or former vice-chair Malcolm Chamberlain should lead.

But Dr Hilary Newport, director of the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said: "We would be very concerned if it meant commercial development to pay for improvements.

Protected

"We cannot justify it in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We wish them success for the future, but not at the expense of our protected landscape."

Opponents of the plans – which range from a £6 million building revamp to a £27 million exhibition centre and equestrian complex – say they are are too ambitious. Mr Jessel said the site was losing potential business "due to our quality of events buildings and our facilities".

The County Show lost £300,000 in 2008. The result of the leadership ballot will be announced on Friday.

My crocodile tears were a real pain

EVERY time Patricia Webster ate a meal she would be crying her eyes out, but now she has been cured of the syndrome called crocodile tears, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

FRESH OUTLOOK: Botox has cured Patricia Webster's 'crocodile tears' and given her a new lease of life

Mrs Webster said it was caused by a rare disease but has now been cured using botox jabs.

At her home in Chatham, the 58-year-old said: "I do feel a little guilty about getting these injections. I don't want people to think they are a waste of money or that I am being vain. I was in terrible pain, and thanks to these injections I can live a more normal life."

She has the injections directly into the lacrimal gland under her eyelids – enough to make anyone's eyes water.

Mrs Webster, a mother-of-three, said: "It sounds more awful than it is. The treatment at Maidstone Hospital has given me a new lease of life, away from the discomfort of shedding tears all the time. And I can wear make up again – which is nice."

About 60 patients attend botox clinics at Maidstone and Pembury hospitals. She said: "I was diagnosed with a life-threatening condition called Guillain-Barré syndrome in 1991.

"It affects the nerves and in turn that caused my eyes to water whenever I had anything to eat or drink.

"My crocodile tears, as it is called, developed as a side effect. It really does affect your life – you can't even go out to eat."

A hospital spokesman said: "It is a remarkable treatment for an unusual condition. We are glad it is working out for Mrs Webster."

The injections block signals from nerves to shed tears.

Mrs Webster said: "The alternative was extremely difficult surgery where part of the eyelids are cut. It leaves scars and there is still no guarantee it will work, so I went for the jabs."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Drugs found in pockets after graffiti arrest in city

GRAFFITI vandal Craig Fisher was caught red-handed scrawling on city centre buildings.

When Fisher, 26, of Tile Kiln Hill, Blean, near Canterbury, was arrested police found three wraps of cannabis in his pockets.

Fisher admitted criminal damage and drug possession when he appeared before Canterbury magistrates. Julie Farbrace, prosecuting, said Fisher was seen writing on the outside of the Furley Page building in Hawks Lane.

Police found Fisher in nearby Water Lane, where he dropped a blue marker pen.

Agitated

He was put in a police car but became agitated. He punched the side of the vehicle and tried to get out. Because of his behaviour police searched Fisher and found the drugs in his pockets.

He said: "All right, I've got some green on me."

Defending himself, Fisher told the court: "I'm very stupid. I have no excuse. I was drunk."

Fisher was fined £150 for possession of cannabis and £250 for criminal damage. He must also pay £30 compensation for the three buildings he damaged, £60 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

Motor dealers defy gloom and warn against 'careless talk'

'Cars are flying out of our showrooms'

By **STEVE LOADER**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A GOVERNMENT minister was pilloried for daring to suggest she could see "green shoots" of recovery, but many Kent motor dealers are similarly upbeat.

Some closures and redundancies notwithstanding, key groups say sales have been robust for weeks, bucking not just the mainstream view of the economy but a traditionally flat time of year for the trade.

Paul Elligate, general sales manager of the SMC group – with Ford sites at Crayford, Sittingbourne and Gravesend – said: "Our position has been helped by Ford launching two excellent small cars [new Fiesta and Ka] at a time when buyers are looking to downsize and cut costs.

"We are also able to buy very cheap cars and pass on discounts to customers, which is keeping turnover healthy.

"But it is not so surprising that some people are willing to spend on a car. Mortgages have gone down, food and fuel prices have eased and if you are in secure employment you are probably starting to feel more confident. We are in danger of talking ourselves into a deeper recession when our general sales show things are not so bad."

His confidence was echoed at Wilmoths Citroen at Park Wood in Maidstone. General sales manager Kelvin Clayton said: "Interest rates are low so there are deals available and savers are spending on cars. Anyone in a secure job with a mortgage that just got cheaper is probably feeling more secure than they have for months. We are selling across the whole range.

"It's an attitude of mind. If we talk about a slump, it will happen if we're not careful."

Group general manager at another major Kent Ford dealer, Invicta Motors of Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet, also feared "careless talk" could cost us dear.

Brian Murray said: "October was poor but November was better and December pretty good. We have had a great start to 2009."

This was no blip, he said, but a nationwide upturn in a month when trade valuation 'bible' Glass's Guide reported used car values hardening after months of decline.

"We are part of a 23-strong nationwide dealer group," he said. "They all report stronger trading. People in secure jobs are becoming numb to the dire predictions and loosening the reins."

Robert Hobbs, centre manager at Motorline Toyota in Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, agreed: "We are not finding things as gloomy as portrayed. Toyota has products to meet the times, such as the Prius and new IQ small car.

"People coming into the showroom are also serious about buying and know what they are looking for. PCPs (Personal Contract Purchase) are popular because everyone is talking about budgeting and a PCP tells you exactly what your monthly outgoings will be.

"You can then give the car back at the end of three years when it runs out of warranty and you need to think about MoT tests."

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NEW FIESTA: Boosting Kent's Ford outlets

SMALL WONDER: Citroen's C1 city car

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Her dark materials

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A PROLIFIC crime writer with a past as dark as her plotlines has given an insight into her success and why her subject remains "endlessly interesting".

Anne Perry, whose historical novels have topped bestseller lists in Europe and the USA, will give a talk about her work and how she constructs her intricate plots, at Bexley library next Wednesday.

The author, who lives in Inverness, Scotland, began her career in 1979 with The Cater Street Hangman, featuring Victorian policeman Thomas Pitt. There are now 24 titles in the series, with the most recent book, Buckingham Palace Gardens, published last year.

It is said to be the longest sustained crime series by a living writer and was made into a television show by ITV in 1998.

"I want to examine people under pressure and find out what they do and why," Ms Perry, 70, said.

"Crime is a very good way of doing that because of the way people behave. An old friend said to me a long time ago that courage is grace under pressure."

Born Juliet Hulme in Blackheath, south London, she moved with her family to New Zealand at the age of 13. In 1954, Juliet and her best friend, Pauline Parker, brutally murdered Pauline's mother. The pair were jailed for five years. In an interview with fellow crime writer Ian Rankin, Ms Perry explained how her parents were separating at the time, how her best friend had told her she would commit suicide and how she felt she had "no choice".

ANNE PERRY: International success

She comes across as completely understanding of the horror of what she did and is honest about the struggles of coming to terms with it. In 1994, Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson made an acclaimed film, Heavenly Creatures, about the murder.

Asked whether her past influenced her decision to write about murder and crime, Ms Perry said: "No, I wrote other things that did not sell. Crime is the most popular genre. I wrote for 20 years without getting anything published. You have to make it believable and stories have to say something that matters. We want to read about people with as many complexities as we have," she said.

"People like the historic detail as well. The emotional impact is important. One of the things I like is that in the pressure of the investigation you discover a lot about yourself and other people. That makes a mystery interesting. That is what a story is about – discovering things you don't know."

She said people being tested and put in extreme circumstances and the way they react to them was "endlessly interesting".

Ms Perry's other series, which began in 1990, features detective William Monk and a nurse called Hester Latterly. It is set 30 years earlier than the Pitt novels.

She said she finds an endless source of inspiration writing about the past, although her decision not to set her books contemporaneously stems also from the fact that they seem to sell well. But the same questions, issues and themes exist now as in the Victorian era.

"Class systems exist in every society," she said. "Things haven't changed much. People mention to me the ability to take control of your own life, to be responsible, as an issue.

"How much do we exercise dominion over other people? We need the approval of our peers, that is a very strong pull."

Asked how she keeps her novels fresh, she said: "You become known for what you do and people expect you to do a certain thing.

"I hope to make them creative and sufficiently different. There are the same social, moral and ethical questions today as then.

"Many social issues still have not been sorted, and moral and ethical questions never do change."

First chapter in Jordan's career

COULD schoolgirl Jordan Clark be the next JK Rowling? Admirers of the 16-year-old certainly seem to think so, with fans across the country lapping up the first chapter of her 97,000-word fantasy novel, Return of the Sun, after excepts were posted on the internet.

JORDAN CLARK

Miss Clark, who is studying for AS-levels in maths, chemistry, biology and Spanish at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar in Canterbury, squeezes her writing in around a heavy school workload.

But she has no plans to stop with just one book. Work is already under way on the follow-up – Daughters of the Moon – in what will eventually become a trilogy aimed at young adults. Miss Clark, who lives in Chartham, said: "Writing Return of the Sun has been one of the most enlightening things I have ever done."

Miss Clark is now seeking a publisher and has submitted the first few chapters to five agents. She has received three rejections so far, but is undaunted.

She has posted the first chapter on her website as a taster and has received many positive comments, both from fellow students and literature fans from as far away as Humberside.

She describes the trilogy as an epic tale of blood, anger and fear, mixed with the mystery of a first love and the power of friendship.

"My dream is for Return of the Sun to be published and to walk into the common room at school and see someone completely absorbed in my book," she said.

The first chapter is available free online at http://returnofthesun.synthasite.com.

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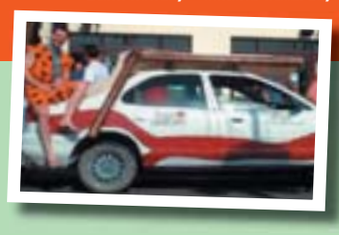

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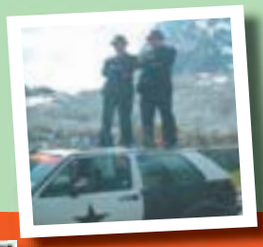

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Shrine makes perfect pitch for Subbuteo

A SUBBUTEO shrine has been opened to celebrate the county's link with Britain's most iconic football game, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Inventor Peter Adolph lived in Tunbridge Wells for most of his life and at the peak of the hobby's popularity there were seven factories in the spa town employing people to produce its miniature equipment.

A permanent display of memorabilia is now on show in the town's museum, featuring prototypes of the first Subbuteo figures and bases, among other rare items. Much of the collection was donated by Mr Adolph's son Mark, 52, who lives in Tunbridge Wells.

He said: "It's good the game is being recognised in this way and I think it should have been done sooner, because Subbuteo was a big part of a lot of people's childhoods.

"People were crying out for a football game at the time and that's one of the reasons it took off. It was the computer game of its time. There were also so many add-ons you could buy that once you had the initial set, you always wanted more."

Peter Adolph, who died in 1994, was a keen supporter of QPR and came up with the idea for Subbuteo after leaving the RAF at the end of World War Two. He placed an advert in the popular Boy's Own Paper to gauge interest in the game. He began producing it when he returned from a business trip to find £4,000 worth of postal orders.

The game's popularity exploded when England won the World Cup in 1966, leading to Mr Adolph's decision to sell the game to toy giant Waddingtons five years later. Although Subbuteo's star has faded in recent years due to video games and the internet, there are still fanatical players who take part in international tournaments.

Mark said: "I have a lot of original models and memorabilia, but diehard collectors would have a fit because I tend to just throw them all in a box.

"I'm often invited to tournaments and conventions and although I used to be quite handy at the game, most of these people wipe the floor with me.

"I'm very proud that something my dad invented is still held in such high regard."

The Subbuteo display can be seen at Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery, at the Civic Centre in Mount Pleasant.

Borough defends cost of top job recruitment

COUNCIL bosses say nearly £200,000 being spent on recruiting a new chief executive is money well spent – despite the credit crunch.

Swale council's bid to fill the vacancy is under way, with the successful candidate pocketing a £130,000 salary – that's a pound for every person in the borough, which includes the Sheppey, Sittingbourne and Faversam.

In addition there will be performance-related bonuses. A further £30,000 is being paid to specialist recruitment consultancy Solace Enterprises.

Senior Swale councillor Roger Truelove said: "It is a large amount, but we have been told it is the going rate.

"I can see how someone who had lost their job seeing this sum being offered for running what is really a small council might be upset.

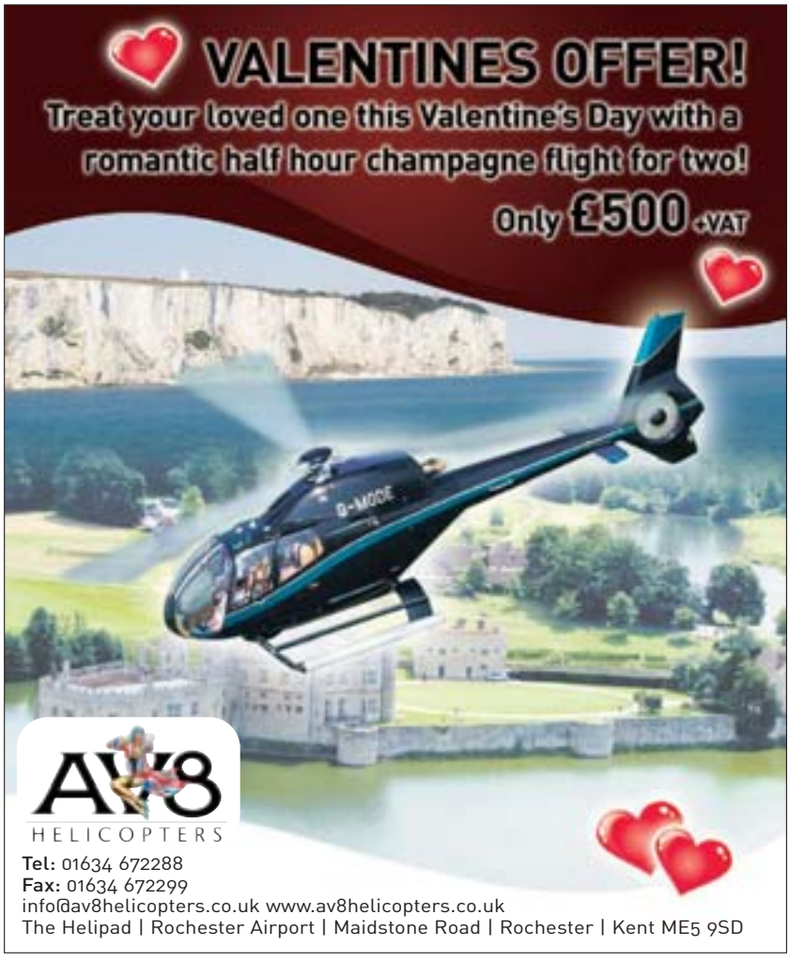
"And I can understand people thinking the money would be better spent on services. Residents might also question whether this is the best use of their council tax. But we need a chief executive. We need leadership. Without one we may lose out on investment from Government and the private sector."

The council has been without someone in the top role since the Mark Bilsborough affair finally came to an end last April.

He was appointed in January 2006 and then controversially put on gardening leave in December 2006 amid allegations concerning his conduct. A disciplinary hearing finally ruled in favour of council officers who complained about him and he was dismissed in April 2008. He later withdrew a claim for unfair dismissal. An interim chief executive, Mike Fisher, was then brought in.

The closing date for applications is Friday, February 13, with a shortlist to be drawn up by March 11 and an announcement of the successful candidate on March 26.

The council said the salary "will ensure that the best candidates are attracted to the role and that Swale council recruits an ambitious and engaging individual with a track record of achievement in leadership and management, who will be charged with helping the council to tackle the significant challenges it faces over the next few years".



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Operatic pub offers escape Handel for hard times

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

GRAND scale, feelgood entertainment is back in vogue as recession-battered people seek escapism – and that's good news for businesses with long-term links with the arts.

Tunbridge Wells-based opera by definition, the county's only resident professional opera company, is staging Europe's premiere of a specially commissioned modern English translation of Handel's rarely staged masterpiece Tamerlano.

And it marks the continuation of a successful four-year association with Sevenoaks-based private client portfolio management company Principal Investment Management which is sponsoring the event.

This year is the 250th anniversary of Handel's death, and opera by definition's staging – the only production of the opera in the UK this year – follows last February's sell-out production of Mozart's Così fan Tutte at The Opera House which is, in fact, a Wetherspoon's pub.

JD Wetherspoon owns the Grade II-listed building, and it has restored the theatre to its former use, so it transforms from pub to theatre when necessary. Chief executive John Hutson said: "We're delighted to support opera by definition."

CHEERS: Enjoy a night at the opera – down the pub – in Tunbridge Wells

Anne Gilbert, chief executive of Principal, said: "It has been a rewarding association for both us and opera by definition. We take pride in our commitment to the community and our involvement with local arts and educational projects.

"We are thrilled to be able to help Tunbridge Wells experience a rare and beautiful performance."

The new translation is by Christopher Cowell with the opera by definition baroque orchestra, which features a rare instrument called the theorbo, a long-necked lute.

Performances are on February 9, 11 (sign interpreted) and 12, at 7.30pm each night.

Matinee February 11, at 1.45pm.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Playing Cupid with Bluewater offers

LOVE is in the air at Bluewater this month, with deals and promotions to create the perfect Valentine's Day.

With Love from Bluewater features ideas for the most romantic day of the year including where to wine and dine your date, treating them to the cinema and which gifts to buy.

If you are not sure what to buy your Valentine, let them choose themselves with the Bluewater gift card, which is available in any value from £5 to £500.

To pick one up, visit any one of the concierge desks, which also have free Valentine's gift guides to hand out.

But if you have managed to choose something, from February 7 to 14 there will be a gift wrapping service for your presents.

Visit the community-based project Groundworks, in the Guild Hall, to have your gifts professionally wrapped from £1.95. For the date itself, February 14, some of Bluewater's 50 bars and restaurants are offering themed exclusive offers.

At Carluccio's,any couple dining on two courses will receive a free bottle of sparkling Prosecco Rose Ruggeri, normally priced £17.95. Seafood and grill restaurant Loch Fyne have a special Valentine's Day menu of three courses for £45 per person, including a glass of champagne on arrival.

Or visit tapas restaurant La Tasca for the chance to win a romantic trip to Barcelona. Then take your loved one to the on-site cinema and treat them to a Showcase Cinema gift box.

The perfect gift for film lovers is priced £24.99 and includes two adult cinema tickets, two regular drinks and one large popcorn.

FARMYARD manure will be the topic of discussion at a meeting on Tuesday. Landowners, farmers and anyone involved with land management is invited to attend the free session to find out more about the economic benefits of using manure on crops. Experts will be at Ashford market's Stockpot meeting room from 1pm.

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Facebook shares in debate

ASHFORD'S controversial 'shared space' town centre has a growing list of opponents – but they claim they are not just knocking local government.

The town has strict speed limits and allows cars and people to mix.

But as the popularity of the scheme gathers pace, one man is gathering opponents through online social networking site Facebook.

It pokes fun at the town's efforts but he denies it is not simply a "hate campaign against the local authorities".

The group has attracted almost 1,300 members since it was set up in November to raise concerns over the controversial road scheme.

But despite many members swapping scare stories about shared space – the group's title is 'Ashford's shared space is an accident waiting to happen' – the man who set it up says it was purely to raise a legitimate concern and not to slate the project.

Phil Thorne was inspired to set up the group because his mother, who has one eye, felt the new scheme had restricted her independence to get around the town.

He said: "I am very proud of my mum and how she has overcome her sight problems, I just felt something needed to be said for those people.

"The site has led to a lot of heated debate. It's all about raising awareness; this is not some sort of hate campaign against the local authorities."

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **46**.

Love your eyes with free specs

SPECSAVERS and The Courtyard in Maidstone are turning up the heat this Valentine's Day.

The store, at 12 High Street, is offering a whole array of goodies to one lucky winner, including a pair of designer specs along with a free eye examination.

The winner will also receive a 'deliciously indulgent and decedent full body treatment' courtesy of Paul Reynolds at The Courtyard, 79 Bank Street.

Specsavers stocks the latest designer frames from ranges including fcuk, Jasper Conran, Missoni and Osiris – Specsavers' own brand. Specsavers customers can also choose from a selection of frames which have been exclusively recommended by celebrity stylist, and presenter of Channel 4's How to Look Good Naked, Gok Wan.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Specsavers Comp, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR.

The closing date is February 6, 2009.

Question: What is the name of Specsavers' own designer range?

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Hart campaign won't Morph into memorial

POPULAR: Despite thousands joining the campaign, Maidstone council say a statue to honour Tony Hart will not be created

COUNCIL bosses in the county town have ignored the heartfelt plea of nearly 3,000 people to build a memorial for artist Tony Hart.

By **ANNA WHITE**
anna.white@kosmedia.co.uk

Hundreds of people have joined a group on the social networking site Facebook titled 'Maidstone Would like a Statue or Memorial of Maidstonian Tony Hart'.

The story published in our sister mid-week paper Yourmaidstone was reported by national, and other local, newspapers and TV stations.

The popular online group, which suggests that some kind of statue or memorial for Hart could be included and funded as part of Maidstone council's plan to improve the high street, now has more than 2,800 members and is increasing every hour.

The group is urging people to put forward their ideas to council chiefs and spread the word to their friends.

Comments posted on the site show a statue of Hart's clay creation Morph is the most popular idea.

But despite the overwhelming response to the group the council says it has no intention of building a memorial for the much-loved artist, who was treasured by a generation of children who grew up watching TV shows Vision On and Take Hart.

A council spokeswoman said: "We don't have any plans to commission a statue of Tony Hart or Morph."

Inspirational

Fans have also been using the site to leave loving messages for their childhood hero and to show their support to the statue idea.

One message reads: "We should be proud of our connection with this talented role model who has inspired so many to have a go and enjoy art.

"From all accounts he was a true gentleman."

Lin Banks, from Maidstone, wrote: "A life-size replica of Morph would be a wonderfully fitting tribute to the memory of Tony Hart and if the riverfront in Maidstone is to be revamped it would be an ideal place to put such a fun piece of art.

"Let's hope the council takes notice of this campaign."

Barbara Neil-Bottle posted: "Maidstone doesn't often affect the rest of the country in a positive way, it's usually things like all the negative press, courtesy of Maidstone Hospital, that are brought to people's attention.

"Let's redress the balance and celebrate Tony Hart with a fitting tribute.

"I quite like the idea of a statue of Morph, or at least featuring Morph in some way."

Mr Hart, who died peacefully at his Surrey home aged 83 on January 18, was born in Hastings Road, Maidstone, on October 15, 1925, and attended St Margaret's Pre-Prep School.

He served as an officer with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in the Second World War before studying art at Maidstone College of Art – now the University for Creative Arts – graduating in 1950 and starting his 50-year TV career.

Feast to light up cathedral

CANTERBURY Christ Church University has invited residents to celebrate the Feast of Candlemas at Canterbury Cathedral.

The service, today, at 6.30pm, will be led by the University's Dean of Chapel, the Revd Dr Jeremy Law.

The centrepiece of the service will be a candlelit procession that will make its way down the length of the cathedral to the font at the end of the nave.

Dr Law, said: "It is a powerful and moving service which, through the symbolism of light, looks at the life of Jesus Christ.

"The privilege of leading worship in one of the world's most famous cathedrals is an expression of Canterbury Christ Church University's identity as a Church of England foundation."

Healthy start to signposting helpline for county patients

THE Kent Health Watch scheme has been hailed a success after attracting 216 callers in its first four months.

A county councillor said the initiative was "better than antibiotics" for helping to reassure callers about health concerns.

The 'signposting' service, which Kent County Council has given a £300,000 annual budget, points callers to the correct NHS helpline. Complaints, concerns or compliments are then logged on a database, which is shared by the NHS.

At its launch in October, KCC said it would enable the county's 1.3 million residents to voice their opinions on health and social care. Cllr Alan Marsh, KCC's cabinet member for public health, said: "It's gone incredibly well."

But concerns have been raised about its value and whether the money should be spent directly on services.

KCC said half of its budget had been spent in the first four months with the £150,000 going towards the set-up, staff training and running of Kent Health Watch. A official said the annual budget equalled 1p per family per week.

If its use continues at the current rate, that

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

works out at £694 per caller. Asked if he was concerned about the low volume of calls, Cllr Marsh said: "We don't want to see 5,000 calls coming in about health unless those calls are about the highest level of care being delivered. It stands up economically because for such a small amount we are able to give confidence and compassion."

So far, 70 per cent of the calls were complaints or concerns, eight per cent were compliments and 14 per cent requests for information. Areas of concern flagged up in primary care included 62 per cent of complaints about GPs and 21 per cent about dentists.

In acute healthcare, only three per cent of people raised concerns about infection control. The highest level of concern was over quality of service (35 per cent) and communication (21 per cent).

Cllr Marsh said: "This is the only system where you get a 24/7 response from a real person who takes all your concerns on board. People want to be reassured – it is better than antibiotics."

NHS West Kent's board called for regular reviews ahead of the launch. NHS West Kent's board called for regular reviews of its

effectiveness ahead of the launch.

Steve Phoenix, the primary care trust's chief executive said: "Kent Health Watch is a useful way to signpost patients to local services. NHS West Kent aims to be as accessible to patients and the public as possible. Our freephone number – 0800 850 850 – which has received 1,074 calls since October, helps us achieve this, providing direct support and information about all local NHS services and other organisations which can help support patients.

"As a new service, KHW has the potential to develop and complement our helpline and we are working closely with KCC to achieve this."

KCC launched the service at Maidstone Hospital, on the anniversary of the publication of the health watchdog's report in the deaths of 90 patients from Clostridium difficile at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust's hospitals.

A spokesman said the trust supported the launch of Health Watch: "We have had 15 cases referred to us. Each was logged and followed up by our Patient Advice Liaison Service (Pals). Six were informal complaints. None related to infection control."

A spokesman for NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent said: "Calls received by KHW relating to this trust are passed on to our Pals service so we are aware of the concerns raised and as yet have not felt the need to use the database."

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust said it welcomed any initiative.

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Specialist schools defended

TEACHERS in Kent have attacked a report criticising the value of specialist schools, ***writes Steve Knight.***

More than 100 schools and colleges across the county now specialise in a particular area of the curriculum, earning extra Government funding for improvements in their chosen subject.

However, a study by the University of Buckingham suggests the new system has led to schools with names that "do not mean very much" and that their perceived success was only because poorer performing schools were unable to obtain specialist status.

The report also said pupils attending schools specialising in a certain subject were often no more likely to obtain good grades than those at other schools.

But Neil Golding, deputy head of the non-selective Westlands School in Sittingbourne, said that was not the point.

"We could have gone for art back when we were deciding on a specialism because that was something we were very strong at, but we wanted to improve a subject our pupils weren't achieving such high grades in," he said.

"We went for maths and computing, and in maths the extra resources have made a big difference. The grades in ICT haven't necessarily seen much of an increase, but lots of different subjects have benefited.

"It's not just about the money. We have better quality teachers now and people are proud to be associated with the school."

The researchers compared the physics A-level results of specialist schools and found that more pupils achieved A grades at music schools than at science schools.

However, there were far more science schools considered (124) than music (eight).

Deborah Stanley, deputy head at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, said improving attainment was one of several aims for a specialist school.

She said: "We're also required to work with the community, so we have people giving science lessons at primary schools and we also work with other secondaries, too.

"The extra money is always beneficial, but focusing on one specific subject helps you improve across the board and allows you to be more creative when teaching."

The Government said specialist schools were "thriving" and raising standards, while the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust said specialisms were catalysts which could improve a whole school.

A county council spokesman said: "KCC and the Advisory Service Kent have always supported and worked closely with those secondary schools that have sought to become specialist. Funding not only supports the curriculum in the schools themselves but also often benefits the wider community."

Port's Olympic screen joy

OLYMPICS fans from across Kent could watch the 2012 games together after Dover won the right to broadcast them on a giant video screen.

The 15ft monitor, which would be provided and installed free, could also be used to show other sporting events such as Wimbledon or the World Cup if the local council is granted planning permission.

Dover was selected as a potential Olympic Live Site after Canterbury – the preferred choice in Kent for the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (Locog) – was forced to pull out.

Cllr Julie Rook, the district council's portfolio holder for community, leisure and sport, said the screen would be installed by the end of April if everything went according to plan.

"We are terribly excited about it and it's quite amazing that we have been chosen. We had a street party and a big fireworks display to celebrate the Olympics handover last year, so they have seen we can put on a good show," she said.

"Dover would benefit from having the screen for 15 years. It could be used by businesses to advertise and for the council to provide information.But it would be fantastic for everybody to be able to come and watch a big event like Wimbledon together. It would be a huge cultural asset for the town."

If Dover gets permission to install the screen in Market Square, it will be the only location among 19 others in the country that is not a city.

Locog would provide and install the equipment, with content and operational management provided by the BBC. The annual running cost for the council would be about £16,000.

Cllr Rook said: "Dover was short-listed because Locog wanted an Olympic Live Site in Kent. Canterbury was chosen ahead of us, but its council had to pull out.

"We submitted our planning application this week, so I'm keeping everything crossed that it works out."

Cllr Rook added that the council was working with a range of partners for help with the running costs. Canterbury missed out on the chance to receive one of the screens when members of the council's ruling Tory executive voted against the idea earlier this month.

'Britain must boost Channel security'

THE French immigration minister has criticised British security at the ferry ports and Channel Tunnel during a visit to Calais where hundreds of migrants have set up camp.

Eric Besson also pledged that another Sangatte-style hostel would be "out of the question" because it would encourage more immigrants to gather in northern France.

He said: "Our English partners must apply themselves more actively in the reinforcement of checks and in security in Calais."

Before the Red Cross centre in Sangatte was bulldozed in 2002, it was used as a staging post by thousands of migrants trying to reach Kent from Calais.

It was blamed for the arrival of 50,000 immigrants over five years into the county.

Richard Ashworth, a Conservative MEP for the South East, said: "We were very happy about the announcement from the French government that there will be no Sangatte two. We think it is time for the British Government to match the determination the French government is showing."

Mr Ashworth praised the ferry, tunnel and port operators for their efforts in restricting the flow of migrants crossing into Kent.

But he said lorry drivers were facing violence due to the migrants becoming increasingly desperate.

There are also reports of migrants paying traffickers thousands of pounds to bribe drivers to take them over the Channel.

Mr Ashworth said: "I have continually lobbied against plans for similar camps in the past, as any such centre would provide a focal point for people traffickers and would create far more humanitarian problems that it would solve."

M Besson, who was in Calais on Tuesday, said he hoped to make a final decision about what to do over the migrant crisis in the port town by May 1. Refugees and economic migrants are living in appalling and conditions in makeshift shelters in woodland near the ferry port, which has become known as the "jungle". Migrant welfare organisations have been providing food and clothing but not overnight shelter. Aid agencies are concerned about the humanitarian situation and have called for a new shelter for the refugees.

A spokesman for the UK Border Agency said: "We will continue to work with France in fighting illegal immigration. Our shared determination has already created one of the toughest border crossings in the world.

"In the last five years we have stopped more than 88,500 attempts from people trying to enter the UK illegally, around 61,000 of those were at Calais alone."

He said ministers would be meeting with M Besson this month to discuss the migrant problem.

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Video game evenings the new night out

Familys fight credit crunch at home

By GARETH ARNOLD
gareth.arnold@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE people than ever are playing safe as the recession worsens by swapping pricy nights out for evenings spent conquering the latest video games.

While many businesses struggle, the games industry has never had it better according to the latest trading figures, with a record Christmas at HMV and increasing sales at Game, who also own Gamestation.

Spokesman for HMV Canterbury said: "Demand for console and PC games and products in our stores in Canterbury is very strong, and we saw a record Christmas with games sales up by around a fifth.

HMV says the successful Christmas sales have been helped by due a strong selection of games for all three main consoles, as well as the wider 'family' appeal of the groundbreaking Nintendo Wii.

A spokesman said: "Part of this has to be down to the games offered across all three main platforms: Wii, XBox and PS3.

"The consoles deliver an amazing gaming experience, especially Wii, which has helped to broaden the appeal of games and made them more of a 'family' product, increasingly moving them out of the bedroom and into the living room."

Popular

HMV say particularly popular games this Christmas included Call of Duty' and 'FIFA 09, as well as Nintendo Wii favourites Mario Kart and Wii Play, as well as handheld hits 'Brain Training' and More Brain Training both out on Nintendo DS.

The combination of a large number of popular games, and several successful platforms on which to play them, has helped produce a lucrative trading climate for the industry, and as disposable incomes dwindle, gamers say it sometimes makes sense to stay in and relax in front of a warm console.

And modern gaming is far from the antisocial stereotype some might imagine.

Keen gamer Pete Blackett, from St Stephen's Road, Canterbury, said: "I think a lot of people go out one night and stay in another to save money.

"And with lots of games now you have a social aspect anyway. Playing Wii with your mates, or the massive multiplayer online role play games like World of Warcraft or Eve.

FAMILY FUN: The Nintendo Wii, advertised by the Redknap family, has brought video gaming into the living room

"With those you chat to people over the net using headsets, so you can either socialise with your mates down the pub and spend money on pints, or socialise online."

Canterbury's other major games retailer Game has also posted strong Christmas trading figures, with sales for the six-week period ending on January 9, up 16.6 per cent.

The company says it has benefited from the closure of competing retailers such as Woolworths and Zavvi.

A spokesman said: "The group has delivered a strong Christmas sales performance in a very difficult trading environment.

"The wider economic environment has led to challenging trading conditions, albeit that the UK also experienced significant changes to the competitive landscape with some competitors having limited availability of stock or ceasing to trade.

"These events gave some upside to the performance in the UK business during the latter part of this key trading period."

Both HMV and Game say they are also doing a roaring trade in secondhand games, and HMV has even launched a credit crunch busting offer which allows gamers to exchange old games for other goods.

A spokesman for HMV Canterbury said: "Another feature of our games offer is Re/Play – our pre-owned games offer. This is a deal for anyone sitting on a load of games they no longer play and would like to trade in.

"If you bring them in to HMV you can receive a credit that is redeemable not just against new games, but on any product that we sell in store: CDs, DVDs, technology products, t-shirts, books – you name it."

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Shop worker gave 'gifts' to friends

SHOP girl Oluwadamilola Odedina started handing out free gifts to her pals when they went to River Island's Canterbury store.

Odedina, 20, of Tennyson Avenue, Canterbury, was caught red handed taking security tags of clothes and giving them to her friends.

When in store CCTV was checked she was clearly seen removing tags on two other occasions.

The two woman she gave the clothes to have never been caught.

She admitted two counts of theft and one of attempted theft at Canterbury Magistrates Court when she appeared this week.

Phil Rowley, defending, said the Christchurch College marketing student was encouraged by the two other women to steal the clothes.

He said: "She didn't benefit from the thefts but was trying to curry favour with the two other women."

Odedina ordered to serve 100 hours unpaid work and told to pay £264.95 compensation to her former employer, plus £60 costs.

images of Kent

THIS picture of people relaxing on the banks of the Royal Military Canal at Hythe was taken by Edward Fagg from Chatham.

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Let's tackle this hidden menace

BBC revelations about asbestos in Kent schools must have greatly alarmed many parents, pupils and teachers.

But has the programme caused fear unnecessarily? Asbestos is deadly, it has blighted our society for decades and we still don't know how many lives it will claim.

In this county, particularly in Medway, many have contracted the deadly cancer mesothelioma as a result of working with asbestos before the dangers were realised.

It is still in homes, outbuildings, hospitals, schools and any number of other buildings. It was banned in the 1980s and experts agree it would be best if it was completely removed.

But while enclosed and solid, it does not pose a threat. Once disturbed, deadly fibres are released into the air. To do the work, schools would have to be shut for months.

KCC and Medway Council are adamant its presence in schools is well managed.

However, such are the devastating effects of exposure, this paper supports the call for an independent specialised body to oversee the monitoring of asbestos.

Brave settlement

NEWS that the Home Office is to shortly announce a new policy that could allow all Gurkhas and their families the same rights as those who retired after 1997 is to be welcomed.

All these brave soldiers, who served and fought on our behalf, have earned the right to settle here if they wish.

OPINION: Why every child matters

Kent wants the best for all the county's pupils, whatever their talents, says KCC cabinet member Cllr Leyland Ridings

IF YOU were to hold a race and asked 20 children to compete, you wouldn't expect every child to cross the finish line at the same time.

All children are different and have differing talents, aspirations and abilities – and in Kent we completely understand this.

For the first time in Kent, 50 per cent of all pupils who took exams last year were able to achieve five A*-C GCSE grades including English and maths.

Excellent news. What an achievement for the pupils and a testament to the dedication of our schools and parents. Yet again this puts us above the national average and for the same results excluding English and maths, we are at almost 70 per cent, once more ahead of the game nationally.

In June 2008 the National Challenge was announced and immediately 30 of our high schools were identified as being at risk of not achieving the 2011 target of 30 per cent five A*-C grade GCSEs including English and maths.

I have every confidence that this will be achieved. This year, nine of our schools reached the target and the majority are close to it, although three dipped below the threshold.

Of the 33, three have been classified as outstanding by Ofsted and 11 are rated as good, while a further three are in the top five for contextual value added (the rate of improvement) in the county. In some schools there are areas for improvement and we are addressing this, helped by the additional £2.1 million provided by the Government.

Let's take a look at Castle Community School in Deal, which has hit the 30 per cent. It is rated as outstanding, is fifth in the county for value added, nationally is ranked seventh, has been awarded the Gold Artmark and 68 per cent of its pupils are achieving five A*-C grade GCSEs.

Visit the school and you feel the passion and enthusiasm of the pupils, staff, parents and governors. They focus on the needs of the pupils and provide activities to engage them. The ethos is very clear and echoes that of the county – every child matters.

Another example of an extraordinary school which finds itself on the list is Canterbury High, again classed as outstanding, second in the county for value added, consistently in the top of the national tables for improvement, has hit the 30 per cent target, has 90 per cent of all its pupils achieving five A*-C GCSEs and is mentioned on the Government's best practice website. These are only two of the 33 schools, so you can see the picture that is emerging here. There is a great deal of hard work going on and astonishing results being achieved in these schools. In Kent, we look at the child and see what is right for them and their future. We are leading the way on vocational training and this gives pupils who may not enjoy or thrive in the traditional classroom environment the opportunity to flourish and realise their ambitions. We provide hands-on training to give them experience and qualifications to make sure they get the career they want.

We do have some schools that will need more focused help to achieve the 2011 target, but they will get there. In some cases, there will be structural change, such as academy, federation or amalgamation. An excellent example of this is the Holmesdale Technology College and Malling School federation which has seen impressive results and progress this year.

In other areas, we will be providing extra support and all of the schools have drawn up a raising attainment plan. These are detailed plans to make sure each school reaches the 2011 target. Of course there are those that will need extra support – and we will provide it. Examples of how they are looking to tackle issues head-on include masterclasses in English and maths and focused teacher recruitment. Others are providing out-of-hours homework clinics, one-to-one tuition and parent engagement.

We don't want to give our children just enough education to hit targets. We are creating a whole package to set them up for life and give them ambition and the tools to achieve whatever their hopes allow. Each child is different, as are parents' aspirations and support, but I promise we are doing all we can to make sure their futures are among the best in the country.

• Leyland Ridings is KCC's cabinet member for children, families and educational achievement.

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Cult of bridge wardens

The City of Rochester has many fine traditions that go back through history and make it the place it is today.

Traditions such as the Admiral's Cruise each year do no harm and put us apart from more recent up-and-coming places like Brighton, the history of which seems only to go back to Regency times.

But sometimes our historical traditions just don't perform as you would hope in the modern world.

The idea of having a shadowy medieval secret society administering our transport system sounds as if it is one of the more far-fetched ideas in The Da Vinci Code.

Yet it is real, set here in the 21st century, and it controls vital access across the towns.

It is of course the bridge wardens, who might be entertaining if they were responsible for no more than the esplanade gardens.

But they control so much land alongside the Medway and access across the Medway so completely that they can be said to have had power without any responsibility to anyone.

They seem not to be a private firm for private benefit. They really do have a public responsibility and claim high ideals, but members of the public have no idea who they are or just what power they have.

We have no idea how they are appointed, how much money they control, what they are for, nor what their public objectives are.

The media should be able to publish a full list of their members, their assets and their public objectives. What do they have to hide?

Derek Munton
Rochester

Our youth on downward spiral

WHAT kind of terrible poison is infecting the minds of some of our young people?

I refer in particular to two extremely troubling articles in your paper last week (January 25).

One involved a schoolboy fight where a boy stamped on the head of another, leaving him in a coma and brain-damaged.

The other was an article about two teenage thugs who – without provocation – attacked a docile golden retriever, kicking it so hard that they broke its ribs and punctured its lungs.

The dog later died of its injuries.

Frighteningly, evil acts of brutality such as these are becoming increasingly common in this country.

With so many of our children constantly listening to gangsta rap music (replete with expletive-laden lyrics inciting listeners to attack women, gay people and the police) and playing ultra-violent computer games (involving prolonged scenes of torture and dismemberment), this must surely leave many youngsters disturbed, desensitised and dehumanised.

Our government is stupid and irresponsible to permit, through lax legislation, the retail of this mind poison.

As we observe the upsurge in fatal attacks on people and animals by psychopathic monsters who were once children, it is clear we are reaping the whirlwind for their ministerial incompetence.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler
Canterbury

Lessons in terminology

Dave Stewart (Letters, January 18) wonders whether I should call Kent's non-selective schools 'secondary-moderns' – and he's got a point.

Kent calls them 'high schools' which misled an awful lot of parents this year.

Many of those who get school allocation letters offering places at high schools think their child must have passed the 11-plus.

After all it is pretty strange to call a school 'high' when about third of their intake are only there because they failed an exam.

Even Councillor Dance is concerned that so many are misled by this terminology.

The confusion is widespread. Many of the letters about Kent's education system in KoS and other papers refer to children going either to grammar or comprehensive schools, but, of course, you cannot have a comprehensive school when its intake has been shorn of the children who happen to be doing well at school aged nine or 10.

We need to find a term that is clear.

Robert Duncan Martin (also Letters, January 18) suggests that selection at nine or 10 years of age is perfectly natural, as selection goes on all the time in all aspects of life – the job market, sport, even romance.

I hope he had his tongue firmly in his cheek.

Grammar school selection tends to last seven years – very few transfer into or out of grammar school during those seven years, while fewer and fewer romantic selections last even half that long, though the consequences of romantic selection may last a lifetime – just as the consequences of 11-plus selection do.

All the pressure is on young people to make their romantic selections when they are a bit older. I suggest the same thing for academic selection: 18-plus seems a far more sensible age.

Martin Frey, Stop The Eleven Plus,
Ashford

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Paying for EU cousins

I can't think why Cllr Richard Long is so concerned about the rural community in East Kent losing out on the paltry £4 million of British taxpayers' money being begrudgingly handed back from the EU at Brussels. (East loses out on EU millions – KoS, January 25).

As Britain must now be the biggest contributor to the EU's annual budget, the amount looks a joke compared to the following and it is perhaps this Cllr Long should be furious about.

Between 2007-13 Poland's rural community will get 14 billion euros from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and 13bn euros from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

And most of it will be free money from us, the biggest mugs in Europe and at a time when the British economy is on the very brink of the final abyss.

Roger Arnold, UKIP
Herne Bay

Silence speaks volumes

I was bemused to read that the directors of Northern Rock are to share bonuses worth £8.8m.

As a mere member of the public, who 'thought' that the Government had bailed out this badly run company and that Northern Rock was only still in existence because of 'public funds', I am deafened by the sound of silence from Gordon Brown's lips.

Mr Brown, why on earth haven't you

Letters continued on page 36

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BIRTHS

BLINSTON
Colin and Chloe celebrate the birth of their daughter Morgan Louise Blinston on 13th January 2009.

BROWNING-WANT
Danni and Chris celebrate the birth of their daughter Chloe Lea on the 13th January 2009. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

COLVILLE
Welcome to the world Evie daughter to Jason and Nicola, sister to Georgie born on 18th January 2009 weighing 8lb 13oz. With lots of love Mummy Daddy and Georgie xx.

CONSTABLE
Lois and Chris are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Maddison Pearl on 2nd January 2009 weighing 8lb 2oz.

DUNNE
Daniel Michael Hamilton born on 12th January 2009,weighing 8lb 5oz. Son to Samuel and Samantha in Margate. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

EDWARDS
Peter and Suzanne celebrate the birth of their twins Lily - Grace Edwards and Harry David Edwards on 7th January 2009.

FRANCIS
Carole Francis of Maidstone celebrates the birth of her son Lucas Kayden Francis on 21st January 2009, weighing 8lb 14oz.

HEARSEY
Samantha and Wayne are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Mea Anne, born on 18th January 2009 at QEQM. Sister to Ellie and Abby.

PENFOLD
Darcy Alice born on 10th January 2009 weighing 8lb 6oz, daughter to Leigh and Mike, sister to Olivia.

PHILPOTT
Sophie Louise born to proud parents Nick and Vicky on 11th January 2009.

REES
Lucy and David are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Scarlett Rebecca on 12th January 2009, weighing 7lb 11oz. Also little sister to Lois.

SEWELL
Finley Paul born on 3rd January 2009, weighing 8lbs 1oz. Son to Paul and Karen in Dover.

SMITH
Lily Rose born on 21st January 2009 weighing 7lb 7oz. Daughter to Sam Smith and Hayley Millen, our little princess.

SOLLEY
Samantha and Peter of Birchington are delighted to announce the birth of their son Liam Peter Solley, born on 12 January 2009 at QEQM. Brother to Ella Jane.

TAYLOR
Kristian James Brian, weighing 6lb 8oz, born at home in Ashford on 29th December 2008 with the family from Surrey present. Son to Lee and Claire Taylor and brother to Bethany, Matthew and Mark.

WARBURTON
Donna and Adam of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Elliott Reece Warburton, born on 13th January 2009 at QEQM. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

DEATHS

BENNETT
Henry passed away on 25th January 2009. Enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Care 01474 564082.

COUCH
Robert Couch passed away peacefully at home on 19th January 2009. Funeral at Barham on 2nd February at 4pm. Donations to the Dogs Trust, details from Lyons Funeral Directors Canterbury.

EDWARDS
David George Edwards of Whitstable passed away peacefully on 23rd January 2009 aged 94 years. Loving husband of Lilian, much loved father of David and Irene and loving grandad to Sarah, Daniel and Matthew. The funeral will be held on 12th February at 12 noon at Barham Crematorium.

HOPPER
Marjorie of Edenbridge passed away suddenly on 12th January 2009. A loving sister, aunt and great friend. She will be very sadly missed by all who knew her. Funeral to be held on Friday 6th February at 3pm at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium, donations to Redwings Horse Sanctuary please.

HUTCHINSON
Elizabeth Betsy passed away peacefully on 16th January 2009 at the Maidstone Care Centre aged 84 years. Formerly of 7 Eastfield House Woodford Road Barming Maidstone. Funeral to take place at 11.45am on 5th February 2009 at Vinters Park Crematorium. Sheaths of flowers only please, enquiries to Birds Funeral Directors Maidstone Tel 01622 692949.

JONES
Norma Eileen Jones passed away peacefully on 21st January 2009. Funeral service to be held at Holy Trinity Church in Coxheath on Friday 6th February at 12noon followed by cremation at Vinters Park Crematorium. No flowers please, donations to The Heart of Kent Hospice.

LONGTON
Veronika Longton beloved mother and grandmother passed away on 22nd January 2009 at Darent Valley Hospital. She will be sadly missed. Funeral enquiries to Horlock Funeral Services Northfleet.

NEALE
Frank Neale of Ramsgate, Kent passed away on 20th January 2009 aged 86. Enquiries to Gore Brothers 01843 223534.

PLAYLE
Grace Playle, formerly of Essex, passed away peacefully on 20th January 2009 at Shottendane Nursing Home.

PRINCE
Robin Kingsley Prince MBE passed away on 18th January 2009 after a long illness. Funeral to be held on 3rd February 2009 at 1.15pm in St. Martins Chuch Shepway. Donations please to The Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey.

TRIMMER
Reginald Patrick Trimmer passed away peacefully at the Heart of Kent Hospice on 23rd January 2009.He will be sadly missed by all Friends and Family.

WAKEFIELD
Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother who will be sorely missed and live in our hearts forever, who passed away on 24th January 2009.

Letters continued from page 35

stopped this travesty of justice and common sense? Perhaps you are – as you so often tell us – being 'prudent'.

But the word I would use to describe your behaviour over this, and so many other financial related judgments, is 'incompetent'.

Ian R Elliott
Whitstable

Race to make it better

With such economic misery afoot I can't help thinking Canterbury City Council should be finding ways to make local residents' lives a little easier.

Perhaps the council should spend less time jacking-up beach hut rents, performing daily policy U-turns and making excuses for not having cleaned up the graffiti and just get on with the things we all expect from a professionally-run local council.

Like cleaner streets, public open spaces that stay public, toilets that are free so you can spend a penny without having to pay for the privilege and, top of the list, taking action to make sure all of the pot-holes and broken pavements that Kent County Council can't be bothered to fix are properly repaired.

After that perhaps they could give us all something to look forward to.

My vote would be for a return of the Tour de France. It was a wonderful spectacle and everyone enjoyed it – and after the success it proved last time I'm sure we could get it sponsored. So come on Canterbury City Council – get on yer bike and give us all something to look forward to.

Cllr Alex Perkins
Canterbury City Council

Calm down Mr Hudson

My thanks go to Richard Purves (Letters, January 25) for his observations in relation to the traffic calming measures experienced in Coxheath.

However, any such measures perceived for Rough Common are very remote indeed due to a statement by Kent County Council prior to the current economic climate that any such funding for even any additional signage would not be available until at least 2010/11

This will undoubtably please 'boy racers' like Terry Hudson (also Letters, January 25) whose idiosincratic ideals are against any traffic calming measures whatsoever.

I would like to point out I am not opposed to any vehicle using the road, but simply that they do so by keeping to the speed limit of 30mph.

Also we the residents of Rough Common are indebted to Mr Hudson (a resident of Herne Bay) for inspecting our road and classifying it "suitable for the traffic it carries". He states that it is bus route, but failed to mention that the service is only a local one and mostly using small vehicles in a one-way system.

He obviously knows more then the traffic manager of National Express coaches whose Dover/London service via the university has seen fit to restrict the service using Rough Common Road.

Mr Hudson is obviously a man of many talents, not only the self-appiointed motorists spokesman for the South East, but also now considers himself a highways inspector together with which he now considers himself an expert on house valuations.

Come on Terry join the modern world and remember the old saying 'Jack of all trades'.

In our current economic climate people don't want to go speeding around wasting fuel in their cars, but want to conserve what resources they have in this uncertain future.

Vic Ride
Canterbury

Rise in cheaper goods

As a result of the credit crunch it is reported that shoppers are turning more to the 'value' or 'basics' ranges in supermarkets.

I've noticed that in the Deal Sainsbury's many of their 'basics' range have increased in price recently. Even their own brand dog food has increased from 78p to £1.20!

More expensive brands have not increased in price. Have any other readers found this?

Call me a cynic, but this seems to be more than coincidence. I can't believe that the wholesale costs of these items have increased pro rata. Perhaps Sainsbury's would care to comment?

Dave Stewart,
Deal

Justice must be served

The arguments used against the campaign for Gurkha Justice are exactly the same as those used against the abolition of slavery and apartheid.

Similarly, such arguments are backed up with grossly exaggerated costs.

If a medic, a plumber or a fruit picker works in this country they will have the same conditions and pay as their British counterparts. Why shouldn't a soldier expect the same principle of parity ?

More than 45,000 Gurkhas have died for this country with four times that number wounded, including those who have been blinded and become amputees.

Often they have been patched up and sent back with inadequate pensions.

They are not mercenaries for they could earn far more if they were.

Four countries have offered to accommodate them in their armed forces each with superior pay and conditions, yet they prefer to stay loyal to Britain.

They have guarded embassies and personnel in every troublespot throughout the world and their bravery has saved hundreds of British lives.

We owe the Gurkhas a debt of honour. If we fail to accommodate their legal claim we will demoralise our own British soldiers as well as the serving Gurkhas.

At this time when we must find a way of extricating ourselves from the Bush/Blair crusade without leaving a void for terrorism. We need our servicemen.

There is a new spirit of hope blowing from across the Atlantic which may end imperialism and American hegemony and by doing so strengthen the beneficial influences of our Anglo-Saxon heritage.

The world will still need a strong international peacemaking police force led by a transformed United Nations.

For modern guerrilla war there is no better soldier with their discerning smile and steely resolve they have a touch of Gandhi and an ability to defuse a situation.

In an age of dishonesty and political corruption I thank God we have true Brits like Joanna Lumley and Peter Carroll.

Rest assured that those concerned with fair treatment of Gurkhas will be the same people who will campaign for social justice within Britain.

Councillor Brian Staley (Lib Dem)
Canterbury

Cash for wrong reason

Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his party should resign.

Paying the families of Irish bombers £12,000, whatever the politics, is criminal.

If this is okay then it's going to cost us a fortune in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When the wars finish there what next – ex Nazi families claiming? We pay benefits to the world's immigrants or those who never bother to work with big families.

I will soon have to sign on with no work. I have paid a fortune in taxes during my lifetime. I will get nothing.

Perhaps I should think of taking another nationality – I would be okay then.

Adrian Ottley
Birchington

Boris, this is not fare

The London Assembly this week debated Mayor Boris Johnson's budget proposals, the headline of which was his promise to not increase the Greater London Authority's share of council tax this year.

This is relatively easy to achieve without effecting frontline police and fire services for one year; other local authorities have managed it with much larger budgets.

It is, however, dishonest of the mayor to claim that he is saving Londoners money.

While the council tax freeze will save the average London household just 11p a week, Mr Johnson's decision to raise bus and tube fares will cost those who use public transport anything between £160-300 extra a year.

Holding tax down with one hand and snatching fares with the other does not represent value for money for working Londoners. Londoners expect far more from their mayor than a delay in increases to their council tax bill. They expect someone who will stand-up for their city, fight for funds and protect them during the recession.

There is nothing in Boris Johnson's budget or economic recovery plan to show that he understands or appreciates his role.

Stephen Morgan
Labour's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Orpington

Celebrate centenary

The 1st Whitstable Scout Group is celebrating 100 years of scouting.

On Sunday, June 14, we are holding a tea party to celebrate this and wish to invite past members along to join with present members in our celebrations.

Could past members who wish to attend please contact the group via email groupex-ec@sky.com or write to:

Mr L Wells, Group Chairman,
1st Whitstable Scout Group
12 Linnet Avenue, Whitstable CT5 4TN

To see this clip search 'Driving'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Credit crunch special with Julie Maddocks. See how easy it is to cut your motoring costs

The journey begins

American **Sandi Carney-Wadsworth**, from Tunbridge Wells, is a former television news broadcaster in Hawaii and a member of Democrats Abroad, the overseas branch of the US Democratic Party. Here she explains what Barack Obama's inauguration means to her.

AFTER the inauguration begins the hard work for President Barack Obama.

So far, it looks like he's hit the ground running: commitment to close the Guantanamo prison and sending highly-qualified emissaries to the Middle East hotspots, as well as keeping the American economy going.

Like millions of others around the globe, I watched the swearing in ceremony on TV.

Hawaii is where President Obama was born and raised. It's a small state, an island state in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the kind of place where everybody knows everybody and many people have had direct contact with Barack, or knew his mother or the grandparents who raised him.

I thought his speech was good: his quiet confidence, his commitment and sense of purpose.

Are the expectations too high for this presidency? I don't think so. I think the highest hurdle was crossed when American voters defied expectations by electing an African-American as president.

This was a defining moment in American history. Barack Obama placed his hand on Abraham Lincoln's bible for the inaugural ceremony. The days of slavery and segregation had ended at last.

When I was a child, my family lived for a few years in Texas, back in the days when segregation was in force. As a five-year-old girl, the first signs in public places I learned to read were those for drinking fountains and (as the British say) the facilities. Divided into those for whites and those for coloured.

I remember arguing with my even younger sister about the merits of the two different drinking fountains.

"Look Susan. This is the water fountain we have to use. It says 'white'."

I pressed the button for the water. "See. White water." She nodded in agreement.

"And over there, is the fountain that says 'coloured'. Why, I bet it has colored water that comes out of that fountain. Just like a rainbow! Why don't we try that one?"

I remember lifting her up to the fountain to reach, but before we could push the button to discover the delights of rainbow water, an African-American lady rushed over and shooed us away.

"Can't you girls read? This isn't your fountain. Yours is over there. Get away from here."

So much for our early attempts at integration. We waited at a good vantage point until we could see someone drinking from the coloured fountain and we saw the water was just the same.

When I watched television last week of the crowds in Washington, I saw the faces of Americans of every colour, rapt with attention and hope.

In England, watching the BBC broadcast of the inauguration, I felt hope, too. I felt that as a nation, our United States of America crossed the dividing line at last.

I loved hearing one of the African-American interviewees explaining what it meant to him. He said: "You know, you can't go on blaming everything on The Man when 'hey' you are The Man!"

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KENT ADULT EDUCATION
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Kent County Council

Scholarships could save parents half of private school fees

AS the country officially enters into recession, parents have been urged to apply for scholarships at a Kent private school that could save up to 50 per cent on fees.

Pupils who show outstanding promise academically or in sport, art and drama could benefit from discounted entry to St Edmund's School in Canterbury if they are joining the senior school in September 2009.

Headmaster Jeremy Gladwin said the application deadline, February 13, was fast approaching.

"The scholarship system opens up the many benefits of St Edmund's, including specialist tuition from dedicated, enthusiastic staff, superb facilities and excellent pupil-to-staff ratios, to young people showing particular promise," he said.

"Successful applicants join an environment geared to ensuring pupils fulfil their potential.

"Expert guidance is one aspect of that – our sports scholars, for example, can call on a number of former county and international cricketers on our staff."

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Obama's inauguration gives feel-good factor to county's universities

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE historic day when Barack Obama was sworn in as the first black President of the United States was marked with a series of special events by students in Kent.

The Universities at Medway celebrated the inauguration with an 'upbeat day' featuring poetry readings, African drumming and volunteering opportunities designed to celebrate cultural diversity.

Canterbury Christ Church University also marked the end of the Bush administration with a public lecture on Wednesday.

Jae Fowler, the campus tutor at Canterbury Christ Church at Medway, who organised the event on inauguration day, said: "The day was a huge success and extremely well attended.

"The Universities at Medway attract a broad spectrum of students from a variety of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and therefore it was extremely appropriate for us to mark the historic inauguration of President Obama in this positive, life affirming way."

Students from Canterbury Christ Church, Kent and Greenwich universities took part in the activities and workshops.

Mick Haworth, who is in his first year studying engineering at the University of Greenwich at Medway, said: "The events have been outstanding and the entire atmosphere on campus has been charged with excitement and general positivity.

HAPPY DAY: US President Barack Obama

"In this day and age there is a real tendency to focus on the negative side of life, so to attend an 'upbeat day', particularly on such an auspicious occasion, proved uplifting and refreshing."

Millions of people around the world watched President Obama's inauguration last Tuesday, and listened as he pledged to tackle global warming, terrorism and the financial crisis.

Dr Jan Sellers, who runs the Labyrinth Project at the University of Kent at Medway, gave staff and students the opportunity to walk the labyrinth to help them achieve focus and peace as part of the 'feel-good' theme of the day.

Dr Sellers said: "Since the 1990s, the labyrinth has been increasingly used as a contemplative tool.

"Its twists and turns, always leading to the centre, requiring concentration just to stay on path, and this helps to keep the walker focused and 'in the present', quietening the mind. It can be a wonderfully calming, peaceful experience and can provoke deep inner reflection."

Professor Brian Ward talked about the connections, real and imagined, between President Obama and Martin Luther King in the public lecture In the Shadow of a Dream, Out of the Shadow of the 1960s.

The chair of American studies at the University of Manchester, said: "During the election campaign and around the inauguration, journalists, scholars and ordinary people alike repeatedly invoked memories of Dr King and his 'I Have a Dream' speech, to try to put Obama into some kind of meaningful historical context.

"What I'm interested in is the way in which Obama has skillfully aligned himself with the legacy of the civil rights movement in general and Dr King in particular, but without being seen as solely a 'black candidate' interested in only racial matters."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Masterclasses give bright sparks a chance to shine

KENT'S budding mathematicians are taking part in a series of masterclasses at one of the county's universities.

Last Saturday, Year Nine pupils began with a lesson entitled Leonardo's Rabbits and Alice's Ice, which explored number sequences describing growth in nature – from breeding rabbits to growing crystals of ice.

Dr Andy Hone, from the University of Kent's institute of mathematics, statistics and actuarial science, said: ""It is important for the university to get involved with supporting gifted children in the local community, and I am very enthusiastic about this new initiative."

Dr David Acheson of the University of Oxford will present the pupils with certificates from the Royal Institution of Great Britain and the best student will receive a prize sponsored by drugs firm Pfizer after the final class on March 14.

Pupils brush up on their skills to achieve top marks

DOG grooming students at a leading college in Kent are celebrating achieving 100 per cent pass marks this year.

Seven canine pamperers received a credit in their external examinations on their City & Guilds Advanced Certificate, which is the lead qualification in the industry developed by the Pet Care Trust and the British Dog Groomers' Association.

Bathing, grooming and styling of dogs as well as general care and common ailments are covered by the qualification, which is provided at Hadlow College near Tonbridge.

Julie Harris, a leading dog groomer and tutor on the Advanced Certificate, said: "This qualification is highly respected throughout the whole grooming industry. I'm extremely proud of the success rate we have here at Hadlow which reflects the commitment of our staff and students."

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If you would like to discuss these opportunities further, or would like an application pack, please contact **Sue Wheeler** on **01634 265891** / **swheeler@guardianhomecare.org.uk**

Closing Date for Applications is **18th February 2009**

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KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

Working within the Structured Psychosocial Interventions Functional Specialist Group, you will be based in East or West Kent and manage a client caseload under clinical supervision. You will also be required to complete client assessments and contribute towards the care planning process.

You will need a qualification in counselling at diploma level and experience of working in the drug and alcohol field would be desirable. BACP accreditation or working towards this is essential.

The flexibility to work away from your service base and the ability to work outside normal office hours would be an advantage.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 550.

Closing date: Friday 13 February 2009.
Interview date: Thursday 19 February 2009.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk

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As a key member of the Administration team, you will need to have top MS Office skills and a 'can do' approach. You should be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff and external contacts in a highly professional manner.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Toni Howes, Service Manager KCA Canterbury on 01227 454740 or Christine Gordon Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex.2.

Closing date: 13 February 2009.

Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 548.

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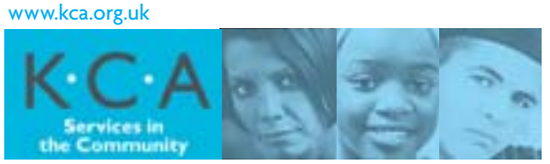

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A qualification to diploma level in counselling with group work experience, preferably in a drug and alcohol day programme or residential setting is required. A BACP accreditation would be advantageous.

Closing date: 9 February 2009.
Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 546.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

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Mrs. Brooks is 84 years old and soon going home from hospital. She feels anxious about how she will manage her shopping and would like someone to visit to give her general support and practical help.

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For further information about becoming a Home From Hospital Volunteer in your area please phone Sandra on 01303 854412 (Answerphone out of hours)

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When Alice took early retirement she missed talking to the parents and children at school and felt her experiences, both as a teacher and grandparent were being wasted.

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The Rising Sun Domestic Violence Project has secured 1 year's funding for 2 part-time children's workers to work with children living in Ashford Refuge. The posts are each 15 1/2 hours per week and are to be worked together. Each person will work 2 mornings and 3 after school sessions offering support, mentoring and preschool play sessions. We are looking for someone with an NVQ level 2 or above in childcare. Experience of working with children in an appropriate setting (school; playgroup; nursery etc)an advantage as is an interest in supporting children who have experienced living with Domestic Abuse. An enhanced CRB check is required. Only women need apply - Exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 Section 7 (2) (e).

Please E-mail: emma@rsdvp.co.uk for an application form. Closing date Friday February 6th. Interview date to be arranged.

Charing Healthcare are looking to recruit

MANAGERS and **DEPUTIES** for care homes in **Maidstone** and **Dover** areas.

For more information or an informal discussion please call Mrs Heather Viggers on 07534965270 or head office on 01322 385033.

*Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory CRB checks.

buzzlines Ordered

Traffic Office Assistant

An excellent opportunity has arisen for an Administrative Assistant to support the Traffic Office Coordinator within this busy working environment.

The successful applicant must have strong customer service focus, the ability to work under pressure and be proficient in most Microsoft packages. This role will include working some Saturdays. French speaking would be desirable but not essential.

For more information call the HR Department on **01303 261870**

Busy Nursery School has the following vacancies

Nursery Manager required for day to day running of a busy day nursery. NVQ3 and previous experience in this post is essential (full time).

Head of under 3's. Duties to include the day to day running of our under three year olds classrooms. NVQ 3 and experience in a similar post is essential (full time).

Montessori Teacher. Must have relevant Montessori qualification (part/full time).

Nursery Nurse. NVQ 2 or 3 or equiv (part/full time).

Please contact for further details:
Tel: 01843 600444 between 8:00am and 5:00pm (Mon-Fri)

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Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.
Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:
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Achieving justice through equality and engagement.

SEE THE OTHER SIDE

Group Equality, Diversity and Community Engagement Manager
South East, based in Maidstone, Kent • £31,370 to £38,812

Are you happy just sitting in the corner ticking the diversity box, or would you rather drive positive change at the heart of an organisation that affects the safety, security and well-being of each and every citizen in England and Wales?

The CPS is not only responsible for the prosecution of crime, we also play an increasingly important role across the whole Criminal Justice System, with partner agencies and championing the rights of victims.

With sensitive and serious crimes, such as hate crime and violence against women having a direct impact on all communities, there's never been a more important time for us to know the people we serve and ensure that they gain a better understanding of how we work and make decisions.

You'll build their confidence and trust by putting equality and diversity right at the heart of everything we do and assuring people from all communities that we will be their champions for justice. You'll achieve this by inviting their feedback and opening up the Service to scrutiny, enabling communities to inform how we work, as well as developing and delivering regional agendas and transforming internal practices to create a truly world-class service.

To have the impact that we want you to have, you'll need experience of driving equality and engagement agendas in a complex public or voluntary sector environment. A tactful, diplomatic approach and superb communication skills will be essential. Regular travel will be involved.

If you're looking for real challenge and involvement, the work you do here will have a direct impact on our success both now and in the future.

For more details, and to apply online, please visit www.cps.gov.uk/careers and look in the 'Professional Careers' section.

For a confidential discussion about this position, please call Libby Davies, Recruitment Consultant at the CPS, on 0151 239 6573.

Please note, this vacancy will go live on Monday 2nd February 2009.

Closing date for applications: 20th February 2009.

The Crown Prosecution Service is an Equal Opportunities employer.
www.cps.gov.uk

CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE
CPS

New Career for 2009
The Royal School of Military Engineering
Salary c£30k (c£36k for PAL)

Construction Materials Technicians

MKC Training Services Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Mid Kent College) is partnering the Royal School of Military Engineering at Brompton Barracks, Chatham in the delivery of a new 30 year contract.

We provide the trades and technical engineering training for over 800 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key positions to replace the military instructors currently undertaking these posts.

You will be qualified and experienced in one or more of the following specialisms:

- Concrete
- Soils
- Road/Airfield Construction

You will be based at the excellent Construction Materials School at Wainscott as a key member of the team, training young soldiers in your subject and achieving a great deal of personal satisfaction.

(A position is also available for an individual with supervisory/management experience to teach and support the management team in supervisory tasks).

If this sounds like you, please contact Ken Pullan on **07725128661** or email your CV to ***ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk.*** (Applicants will be invited to tour the facilities prior to shortlisting for interview).

Closing date: 16th February 2009.

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer

MKC Training Services Limited
at The Royal School of Military Engineering

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Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for…

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.

Medway Scale, Grade D2

£14,847 - £18,882 + SEN Allowance (£1,162)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338224)
Please note CV's will not be accepted.
Closing date: 13.2.2009

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A major resource centre specialising in the care and support of adults with disabilities

Strode Park Foundation is a charity with over 60 years experience in working with people with disabilities, providing long stay and rehabilitation services. We are now embarking on an exciting development within ReAbility, our

Neuro-Rehabilitation Service

for people with Neurological disorders. This service will be provided in our new fifteen bedded award winning wing, set in 14 acres of beautiful gardens in the village of Herne, near Whitstable, Kent. For this we are expanding our team of

Therapists and Nurses

with a passion for helping people fulfil their potential

- ReAbility Service Manager & Therapist Lead

You will be responsible for managing ReAbility's Therapists, Nurses & Support Workers.
You will be responsible for leading partnership working with local NHS Trusts.
You will be the lead for your professional specialism.
You will be qualified with at least four years experience in an appropriate field.
You will have some experience within a managerial role.

This is a Full Time position offering a competitive salary which will reflect your relevant abilities, experience and qualifications.

All remaining Post's are Full or Part Time, working hours by arrangement

The following posts will require you to have at least three years post-qualification with 1 year in a relevant position. You must have an interest in neuro-rehabilitation service. Additional training and support will be given.

Salaries will be in the range £25,000 to £32,000 PA
or full time staff depending upon qualifications and experience

- *Physiotherapist*
- *Occupational Therapist*
- *Nurse with Neuro Rehabilitation Experience*
- *Speech and Language Therapist (this post is part time only)*
- *Psychologist with Neuro Experience*

For this particular role we would consider a range of appropriate experience and skills. However this would not be suitable as a first post.

Interviews for all posts will be held week commencing 23rd February, 2009

Please contact The Strode Park Foundation HR Department via 01227 373292 for an application pack, additional information, or to visit. Alternatively, **email:recruitment@strodepark.org.uk.**
Strode Park Foundation, Strode Park House, Herne, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 7NE.
All posts are subject to an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

Ashford Christ Church

A Church of England Specialist Maths and Computing College
Headteacher: Catherine Barber
Millbank Road, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent TN23 3HG

Are you the type of person that feels that sometimes life takes itself a little too seriously, that people want to see a face they recognise, trust and know and are welcoming in whatever circumstances? Can you raise yourself each day to make others smile and in return know that you have a gift that is valued for its importance as well as the message it sends?

Christ Church is at the heart of its community and proud of its Christian ethos. It is fully inclusive and offers excellent pastoral care to students within a welcoming environment.

Head teacher and Board of Governors are seeking to recruit a passionate, hardworking and dedicated:

FRONT OF HOUSE RECEPTIONIST

Posts available 07.45 - 12.45 and 12.30-17.30 for 52 wks of the year
Salary: KS3 PTS 7-11 (£9,432 - £10,693 pro rata)

Responsible to the Senior Receptionist for the front of school welcome. You will be the first point of contact with staff, pupils, parents and outside agencies. It is therefore very important that you present a cheerful disposition and that you are efficient and effective in operating telephones whilst greeting people and ensuring they are well looked after. Ability to cover both shifts would be highly desirable.

TEMPORARY GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY POST

30 hours per week for 39 weeks of the year (Term-time only)
Salary: KS5 PTS 14-17 (£11,736 - £12,512 pro rata)

You will be performing to a wide range of administrative tasks and we will be looking for candidates with the proven ability to take detailed minutes and be able to be flexible for an early start, 8.00am, on a Wednesday.

Closing date: 6th February 2009.

Visit our website: www.ashfordchristchurch.com

For further information and an application pack please contact James Norton at jamesnorton@ashfordchristchurch.com

Telephone: 01233 623465 or Fax: 01233 636861

Appointment is subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure check because Christ Church is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

Director of Human Resources
MidKent College Medway Kent

Salary circa £75,000 + Generous Benefits Package

MidKent College is the largest provider of education and training in Kent, employing more than 1,000 staff and training over 10,000 students and 3,000 soldiers per year. In these exceptional times we are about to relocate to our £86 million new premises which are nearing completion in Gillingham, we have just commenced service under a Private Public Partnership delivering training services to the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham and we are finalising exciting plans for the redevelopment of our site in Maidstone. To compliment this we are currently looking for a Director of HR to take full responsibility for the strategic and operational development for all aspects of the HR functions within the College.

Role

- Lead the development of a progressive HR function to support the College's ambitious change agenda.
- Forge strong and professional relationships with the Senior Leadership Team and other stakeholders by demonstrating an ability to deliver highly professional services in line with the College vision and values.
- Contribute significantly to the organisational development of the College and make improvements to individual and team performances which in turn will benefit students.

The Candidate

- You will be qualified to a minimum of CIPD graduate level and have senior management experience of a strategic and operational Human Resource role.
- You will have up-to- date knowledge of current and emerging employment legislation and an impressive and proven track record of moving the HR functions forward in a large, complex and changing organisation.
- You will have a demonstrable track record of leading change and improvement, gaining the support of staff and achieving tangible results.
- You will have superb communication skills and the ability to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders
- You will be a determined, creative and results orientated individual with the ability to influence at all levels.

For full details and application pack please contact Katherine Reilly on *01634 884398* or email *Katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk*

For a confidential discussion about this exciting post please call Ken Pullan (our retained consultant) on *07725 128661*. Closing Date: 9th February 2009.

The brand new Medway Campus will replace the College's existing sites at Horsted and City Way.

September 2009 will see the opening of the College's innovative new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and plans are currentley being developed for a dazzling transformation of the Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park.

www.midkent.ac.uk

MidKent College

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

Ursuline College

225 Canterbury Road
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Kent CT8 8LX
Phone 01843 834431 Fax 01843 835365
recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Specialist Sports College

Roman Catholic Co-educational Voluntary Aided Comprehensive
780 students on roll

Required 1st April 2009

Due to an internal staff re-structure, we are looking to recruit talented individuals to fill the following key roles at the College:

PA to Headteacher

37 hours per week, Term Time plus 3 weeks (41 weeks per annum)
Kent Scheme Payscale 7/8 Points 20-28 £20,061 - £26,159
(pro-rata to £17,698-£23,077)

Finance and Personnel Administrator

37 hours per week, Term Time plus 3 weeks (41 weeks per annum)
Kent Scheme Payscale 6, Points 17-20 £18,288 - £20,061
(pro-rata to £16,134-£17,698)

House Administration Assistant

37 hours per week, Term Time plus 3 weeks (41 weeks per annum)
Kent Scheme Payscale 3/4 Points 7-14 £13,959 - £16,627
(pro-rata to £12,314-£14,668)

This is an exciting opportunity to join this highly successful and over-subscribed College, to work with and support a hardworking, dedicated and friendly team of professionals, who are committed to achieving excellent standards across all areas of the School.

A full Job Description and Person Specification are available for each role. Please apply for an application pack in writing to Mrs Tanya Utton, Headteacher or via e-mail to: recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Closing date: Tuesday 3rd February 2009
Interviews to be held Monday 9th February 2009

"The College provides a good education for its learners and aspects of the College's work are outstanding" OFSTED 2007

Ursuline College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff/ volunteers to share this commitment

ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Full-time Teacher

Due to continued expansion and growth, the above vacancy has arisen in our EBD Schools for pupils in Key Stages 2-4; all of whom have emotional and behavioural difficulties. EBD experience preferable, but not essential. A flexible approach to teaching is important. An understanding of integrated studies would be an advantage. Support and training will be given.

Salary depending on experience, post to commence as soon as possible

Closing date: 13 February 2009

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:

Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ – Telephone: 01843 823762

We are an equal opportunities employer

Rainham School for Girls
(A Specialist Technology College & Associate Training School)
Derwent Way, Rainham, GILLINGHAM Kent ME8 0BX
(NOR 1570) • Head Teacher: Mrs J Dunn

2 I/C MATHS FACULTY TLR2A (£5,920)

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well qualified teacher with good interpersonal, leadership and management skills to join the school in September 2009 as Second in Charge of the Maths Faculty. The successful candidate will have high expectations of student achievement and proven excellence in classroom practice.

Rainham School for Girls is a popular and successful non-selective school offering excellent opportunities for enthusiastic and ambitious applicants to contribute to its continuing development.

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Application forms and further details are available from Mrs D Francis, Personnel Officer at the School.

Tel. 01634 362746, Fax: 01634 388334. email: dfrancis@rsg.org.uk

Closing date: Monday, 9th February 2009

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HMYOI ROCHESTER, MEDWAY PRISONS HEALTH PARTNERSHIP >

HM PRISON SERVICE
Public Sector Prisons

EXTRAORDINARY JOBS. EXTRAORDINARY WORKPLACE.

HMYOI Rochester requires Registered General Nurses, Mental Health Nurses and Learning Difficulties Nurses:

BAND 5 REGISTERED NURSES (GENERAL, MENTAL HEALTH, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES)

£20,225 - £26,123 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £1,542 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

The Registered General Nurse will nurse in a general practice environment and respond calmly in a changing environment or to urgent events. Skills including chronic disease management, good assessment skills, triage, minor illnesses, sexual health and health promotion skills are desirable.

The Registered Mental Health or Learning Difficulties nurse will assess and support a range of community mental health, mental illness and behavioural issues including work with substance and alcohol misuse. Skills needed include crisis intervention and risk management and work with self-harm. CBT and behavioural management skills and experience working with conduct disorder, ADHD or Autism/Aspergers spectrum behaviours will be valued.

Nursing in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

HMYOI Rochester requires two Band 4 Health Support Workers delivering a range of one-to-one and group interventions:

BAND 4 HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS (PRIMARY CARE & PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH CARE) – HMYOI ROCHESTER (HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER)

£17,316 - £20,818 PA PLUS ENVIRONMENT ALLOWANCE OF £952 PER ANNUM AND ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROSTERED WEEKEND WORKING.

With a relevant qualification preferably to diploma level or NVQ 3/4 or equivalent or relevant qualifying experience in health, health education, or social care service delivery you will have a proven record and work well in partnership with other professionals. You must have good basic educational skills and the ability to deliver interventions one-to-one or with groups is essential. Knowledge of health education and health improvement procedures and techniques is desirable. Health promotion in prison is an opportunity to make a difference in the life chances of young people in custody for whom health improvement is part of the key to unlocking their future.

In return, you'll receive 27 days' annual leave plus 8 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the NHS Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 20 February 2009.

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Studies **09/04**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

Temporary Lecturer Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing **08/42**
37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed 12 months.

Lecturer Hairdressing **09/05**
9.25 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum.

Lecturer ICT **09/06**
37 or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. (pro rata for part time posts)

Lecturer Key Skills (to Building Services students) **06/175**
18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students) **07/30**
37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Business Partnership Manager **07/45**
37 hrs per week, salary starting at £27,073 per annum

Technician to Support Applications (Standard) **ATS**
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,963 per annum

Supply NVQ Assessors are required in the following areas:
Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

Early Years **S/NVQ/EY**
Play Work **S/NVQ/PW**

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Business, ICT, Hospitality and Catering, Hairdressing, Beauty and Holistic Therapies, Sports, Leisure, Travel and Tourism **04/118**
18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum.

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Engineering & Construction **08/148**
37 or 2 x 18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Night Cleaners **08/22**
20 hrs per week, salary £6.42 per hour

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- *Pension & Life Assurance Scheme*
- *Proximity to main bus & train stations*
- *Close to City Centre*
- *Sports Hall & Gym*
- *Generous Holiday Allowance*
- *Staff Discount Scheme*

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 16th February 2009 at 12 noon

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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European Social Fund
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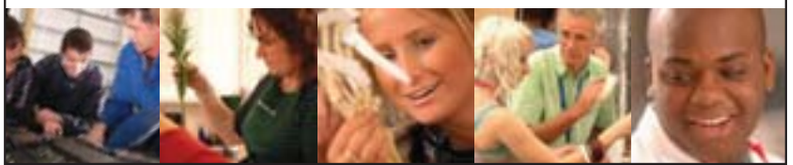
CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*



Career Opportunities

Sheppey College

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Lecturer Administration to Level 3 and Cross College Key Skills 08/73

18.5 hrs per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- **Pension & Life Assurance Scheme**
- **Proximity to main bus & train stations**
- **Generous Holiday Allowance**
- **Close to Town Centre**

The closing date for the above post is Monday 16th February 2009 at 12 noon

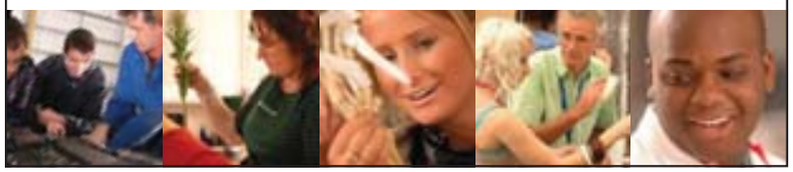
POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



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Accountancy

Finance and Personnel Administrator
Thanet
Salary: £18,288 - £20,061 pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 3 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mrs Tanya Utton
Ursuline College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Traffic Office Administrative Assistant
Hythe
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: HR Department
Buzzlines
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 261870
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

PA to Headteacher
Thanet
Salary: £20,061 - £26,159 Pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 3 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mrs Tanya Utton
Ursuline College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

House Administration Assistant
Thanet
Salary: £13,959 - £16,627 pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 3rd February 2009
To apply/more information: Mrs Tanya Utton
Ursuline College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Office Assistant
Canterbury
Salary: £14,847 - £16,614 Pro rata
Closing Date: 13 February 2009
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 548
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

RECEPTIONIST
Rochester
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Mrs Julie Allen
St Werburgh Medical Practice
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 250523
Email julie.allen@nhs.net

Receptionist/ Administrative Assistant
Ashford
Salary: £14,000 - £15,000 per annum
Closing Date: 13 February 2009
www.outlookfostering.com
To apply/more information: Outlook Fostering Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 610661
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Child Care

Nursery Manager
Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Port Regis Montessori Nursery School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 600444
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Head of under 3's
Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Port Regis Montessori Nursery School
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01843 600444
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Nursery Nurse
Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Port Regis Montessori Nursery School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 600444
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Children's Worker
Ashford
Salary: £17,000 pro rata
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information: Rising Sun Domestic Violence Project
Quoting Job Ref: Ash ref nursery
Tel: 01227 452852
Email emma@rsdvp.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

CONTRACTS SURVEYOR
Canterbury
Salary: £36k - £40k
To apply/more information: Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 819419
Email lbeckley@canterbury.serco.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Canterbury
Salary: £38k - £42k
To apply/more information: Serco Local Government
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 819419
Email lbeckley@canterbury.serco.com

Education, Teacher, School

Kent County Council

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Hourly Paid Lecturer
Medway
Salary: £19.17 to £30.96 per hour
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: SCH
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Learning Support Hair
Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £16,914 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information: Sheppey College
Quoting Job Ref: SH/LS/HB
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

TEACHER OF ECONOMICS and BUSINESS
Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 6th February 2009
To apply/more information: Mrs M Tong Ralphs
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Programme Area Leader in Sport
Medway
Salary: £29,267 - £32,898
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0264
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Sport
Medway
Salary: £25,092 - £28,719
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P1000
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Instructor/Reviewing Officer
Ashford
Salary: £19,736 -£25,441 pro-rata
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0586
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Media Technician
Medway
Salary: £11,599 - £17,200 pro-rata
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P1001
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk.

Departmental Administrator
Medway
Salary: £11,599 - £17,200
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0245
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

TEACHING ASSISTANTS
Medway
Salary: £14,847 - £18,882 +SEN Allowance (£1,162)
Closing Date: 13 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mrs Linda Taylor
Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 338224
Email tally036@medway.org.uk

Teacher Maths Faculty
Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Monday, 9th February 2009
To apply/more information: Mrs D Francis
Rainham School for Girls
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 362746
Email dfrancis@rsg.org.uk

Lecturer Administration to Level 3 and Cross College Key Skills
Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 16 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information: Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/73
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Senior Project Engineer
Folkestone
Salary: £35,685 to £41,031
Closing Date: 6 February 2009
To apply/more information: Shepway District Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 853481
Email jobs@shepway.gov.uk

Construction Materials Technicians
Medway
Salary: Circa £30k (c£36k for PAL)
Closing Date: 16 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

Mobile Patrol / Supervisor
Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Swift Security Services Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 650160
Email info@ swiftsecurityservices.co.uk

HR, Recruitment

Director of Human Resources
Medway
Salary: Circa £75k + Generous Benefits Package
Closing Date: 9 February 2009
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 884398
Email Katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

European and UK Transport Manager
Hythe
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Buzzlines
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 261870
Email hr@buzzlines.co.uk

Management, Senior Positions

Director of Sales
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Oil Drum Limited
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email darryl@save-fuel.co.uk

Not for profit, Charities

Home From Hospital Volunteers
Kent
Salary: Expenses Paid
To apply/more information: Sandra
British Red Cross
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 854412
(Answerphone out of hours)
Email rdye@redcross.org.uk

Volunteer for Home-Start Induction Programme
Kent
Salary: NA
To apply/more information: Home-Start Canterbury & Coastal
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 429007
Email home-startsitt@btconnect.com

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Personal Assistant/ Carer
Gillingham
Salary: £7 per hour
To apply/more information: Mrs Bhohi
Quoting Job Ref: 420
Tel: 01634 331667
Email nurinderb@googlemail.com

Therapeutic Day Programme Workers
Kent
Salary: £21,244 - £27,492
Closing Date: 9 February 2009
To apply/more information: KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 546
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

Foster Carers
Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: 01732 746697
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@benecarefostering.co.uk

Night Care Assistant
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Philippa Baker
The Populars Nursing Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 758872
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

MANAGERS
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 385033
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

DEPUTIES
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 385033
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

CARE SUPERVISOR
Gillingham
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 18th February 2009

JobsforKent.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Sue Wheeler
Guardian Homecare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 265891
Email swheeler@guardianhomecare.org.uk

Drug Counsellors
Kent
Salary: £21,244 - £27,492 PA
Closing Date: Friday 13 February 2009
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 550
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

ReAbility Service Manager and Therapist Lead
Herne Bay
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Strode Park Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 373292
Email recruitment@strodepark.org.uk

Physiotherapist
Herne Bay
Salary: £25,000 to £32,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Strode Park Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 373292
Email recruitment@strodepark.org.uk

Occupational Therapist
Herne Bay
Salary: £25,000 to £32,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Strode Park Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 373292
Email recruitment@strodepark.org.uk

Nurse with Neuro Rehabilitation Experience
Herne Bay
Salary: £25,000 to £32,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Strode Park Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 373292
Email recruitment@strodepark.org.uk

Psychologist with Neuro Experience
Herne Bay
Salary: £25,000 to £32,000 PA
To apply/more information:
Strode Park Foundation
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 373292
Email recruitment@strodepark.org.uk

Registered Nurses (General, Mental Health, Learning Difficulties)
Rochester
Salary: £20,225 - £26,123 PA
Closing Date: 20 February 2009
To apply/more information:
HM Prison Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

Health Support Workers (primarys care and Primary Meantal Health Care)
Medway
Salary: £17,316 - £20,818 PA
Closing Date: 20 February 2009
To apply/more information:
HM Prison Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Copywriter/ Assistant Editor
Gravesend
Salary: £16,000 - £19,000 PA
To apply/more information:
AJP Publishing
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email caroline.lutz@ajppublishing.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Community Cohesion and Equalities Officer
Sittingbourne
Salary: £27,612 PA
Closing Date: 12 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: 206ED4
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Full Time Sales Person
Chatham
Salary: TBC
To apply/more information:
Terry Morris
Morris and Turner
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 813813
Email colin@morrisandturner.co.uk

Catalogue Distributors
Medway
Salary: £50-£300 per week
To apply/more information:
Goldchasers
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 8736035
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Online Sales Executive
Gravesend
Salary: £20,000 OTE
To apply/more information:
AJP Publishing
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email caroline.lutz@ajppublishing.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for a Variation of Premises Licence

I, Julie Reeman, hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ for variation of the premises licence to add on an extension to the restaurant at rear of the below mentioned premises to operate within the current approved hours for the remainder of the premises and be permitted to hold the following licensable activities in this extended area:

1. The sale of alcohol by retail
2. The provision of regulated entertainment
3. The provision of late night refreshment

In respect of the premises situated at Pilgrims Way, Thurnham, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3LD known by the sign of Black Horse.

The application can be viewed at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ during normal office hours (www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk)

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 24th February 2009.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW
8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

Environment Agency

WATER FOR LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS

Notice of publication of the 'Draft River Basin Management Plan' consultation document, under Regulation 12(1)(c) of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003.

The Environment Agency has today published a consultation document for the South East River Basin District. The 'Draft River Basin Management Plan' document is the third in a series of three publications for public consultation, allowing anyone with an interest in the water environment or the river basin planning process the opportunity to comment.

The consultation runs until 22 June 2009 and any person may make representations to us regarding the contents of the draft plan by completing the online response form on the Environment Agency's web site www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd.

Alternatively, representations can be made via email to enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk, or in writing to: Sue Lade, Environment Agency, Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1LD. Copies of the 'Draft River Basin Management Plan' consultation are available from our website, or can be provided in other forms including inspection at our offices by contacting Sue Lade at the Worthing address.

Details of the South East River Basin District and liaison panel are are available on the Environment Agency's website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd or via phone, on 08708 506 506.

Harvey Bradshaw
Regional Director, Southern Region
Environment Agency

L & D LOGISTICS LIMITED
Company Number: 5664626

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Pearl Assurance House, 319 Ballards Lane, London, N12 8LY on 11 February 2009 at 11.00 am for the purpose provided for in Sections 98 et seq of the Insolvency Act 1986.

David Rubin, Licenced Insolvency Practitioner of David Rubin & Partners, Pearl Assurance House, 319 Ballards Lane, London, N12 8LY will, during the period before the day of the Meeting, furnish creditors free of charge with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated: 21 January 2009
Loma Tonkin, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
DIRECT WORKS LIMITED

In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that we, Vincent John Green and Mark Newman, Licensed Insolvency Practitioners of Vantis Business Recovery Services, Judd House, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HG were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above company by the Members and Creditors on 23 January 2009.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company that is being voluntarily wound up, are required on or before 2 March 2009 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, the Joint Liquidator of the said company, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator are personally, or by their solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated 26 January 2009
Vincent John Green, Joint Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
EGG INTERIORS LIMITED
Company No: 05335846

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at 67 Butts Green Road, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 2JS on 5 February 2009 at 11.00 am for the purposes of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at 43/45 Butts Green Road, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 2JX between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business day preceding the meeting. Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon, to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and convening of the meeting.

Dated 22 January 2009
By Order of the Board
Ben Donavon, Director

PUBLIC NOTICE – LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for the Grant of a Premises Licence

We, Sho Sports Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Medway Council, Civic Centre, Strood,Kent ME2 4AU for the grant of a premises license to permit the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail – between 11.00 and 23.00 – Monday to Thursday, 11.00 – 23.30 Fridays and Saturdays and 11.00 and 22.30 on Sundays, and New Years Eve – 11.00 – 01.00
2. The provision of regulated entertainment – from 09.00 – 23.00 Monday to Thursday, 09.00 – 23.30 Fridays and Saturdays and 09.00 – 22.30 Sundays on New Years Eve from 09.00 – 01.00
3. The provision of late night refreshment – from 23.00 – 23.15 Mondays to Thursdays, 23.00 – 23.45 Fridays and Saturdays, and New Years Eve 23.00 – 01.00 inclusive.
4. Opening hours – from 09.00 until 23.30 Mondays to Thursdays, 09.00 until 24.00 Fridays and Saturdays and Sundays 09.00 until 23.00.

In respect of the premises situated at Featherby Road, Gillingham Kent ME8 6AN and known by the sign of the Sho Lounge. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR between 9.00 a.m.and 4.00 p.m – Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.medway.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 19th February 2009.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW solicitors, 8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP.
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

PUBLIC NOTICE – LICENSING ACT 2003
Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence

We, Sho Sports Ltd hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Medway Council, Civic Centre, Strood, Kent ME2 4AU for the variation of a premises license to permit the following licensable activities;

1. The sale of alcohol by retail – between 11.00 and 23.00 – Monday to Thursday, 11.00 – 23.30 Fridays and Saturdays and 11.00 and 22.30 on Sundays, and New Years Eve – 11.00 – 01.00 and to include a marquee within the operation.
2. The provision of regulated entertainment – from 09.00 – 23.00 Monday to Thursday, 09.00 – 23.30 Fridays and Saturdays and 09.00 – 22.30 Sundays on New Years Eve from 09.00 – 01.00
3. The provision of late night refreshment – from 23.00 – 23.15 Mondays to Thursdays, 23.00 – 23.45 Fridays and Saturdays, and New Years Eve 23.00 – 01.00 inclusive.
4. Opening hours – from 09.00 until 23.30 Mondays to Thursdays, 09.00 until 24.00 Fridays and Saturdays and Sundays 09.00 until 23.00

In respect of the premises situated at Featherby Road, Gillingham Kent ME8 6AN and known by the sign of the Four Four Two Sports and Social Club. The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m – Monday to Friday except public holidays) www.medway.gov.uk

Interested parties and responsible authorities may make representation concerning this application in writing to the above local authority and within 28 consecutive days of the submission of the application, that is no later that 19th February 2009.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW solicitors, 8 Grassmere, Leybourne, West Malling, Kent ME19 5QP.
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicants.

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
AMENDMENT TO THE SCHEME FOR MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Borough Council received a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel containing recommendations for amendments to the Scheme for Members' Allowances. The Panel's recommendations as to basic and special responsibility allowances were considered in detail by the Full Council at its meeting on 20 January 2009.

The Council resolved to accept the Panel's recommendations but to maintain the current level of recommended allowances, with the exception of the SRAs for the Group Leaders which will be paid at the recommended level for 2009/10. During a 4 year transition period, allowances will move towards those recommended by the Panel with the intention that by year 4 of the transition the Panel's recommendations will be in force in full.

	Panel's Recommendation £	Resolved Allowance Level for 2009/10 £
Basic Allowance to all Councillors	5,162	4,734
Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA):		
Majority Group Leader		1,907 plus £100 per member of the Group
Opposition Group Leader	1,907 plus £100 per member of the Group	1,907 plus £100 per member of the Group
Leader of the Council	19,068	9,468
Cabinet Member	9,534	7,101
Chair of Scrutiny Committee	6,195	5,919
Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee	1,549	1,185
Chair of Policy Overview Committee	6,195	5,919
Vice Chair of Policy Overview Committee	1,549	1,185
Chair of Licensing & Appeals Committee	2,581	2,367
Vice Chair of Licensing & Appeals Committee	645	1,185
Chair of General Purposes Committee	2,581	1,185
Chair of Area Planning Committee	5,162	4,734
Vice Chair of Area Planning Committee	1,291	1,185
Chair of programmed Advisory Board	1,291	1,185
Vice Chair of programmed Advisory Board	323	237
Chair of non-programmed Advisory Board	516	591
Vice Chair of non-programmed Advisory Board	129	237
Chair of Standards Committee	1,291	1,185
Chair of Audit Committee	1,291	1,185
Vice Chair of Audit Committee*	645	0
Vice Chair of General Purposes Committee*	323	0
Vice Chair of Standards Committee*	516	0

* New allowance recommended

The Council also resolved to implement the Panel's recommendation that the Childcare allowance be increased from £5 to a maximum of £6 per hour and that an allowance for the Carers of Dependants be introduced at a maximum of £15.50 per hour. Both allowances are only payable on submission of receipts and will come into effect from 1 April 2009.

Copies of both the Independent Remuneration Panel's report and the amended Scheme for Members' Allowances are available for inspection by members of the public on the Council's website at www.tmbc.gov.uk or free of charge during normal office hours at the Council's principal office at Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

21 January 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/08/03636/FL – Highlands Long Mill Lane Crouch Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8QF – Mr Richard Dillon is applying for first floor rear extension for agreed special needs, with a new front dormer window and front porch. Reason: CA

TM/09/00082/EL – Basset Park Stables Taylors Lane Trottiscliffe West Malling Kent ME19 5ES – EDF Energy Networks Limited are applying for removal of one span of high voltage overhead line to be replaced by underground cable and establish one new terminal pole. Upgrade 450m of low voltage overhead line to aerial bundled conductors. Reason: EL

TM/08/03736/FL & TM/08/03728/LB – Whiffins Farm 12 Maidstone Road Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8BD – Mr Geoff Jackson is applying for new conservatory/orangery rear addition and conversion of garage roof space to provide carer's accommodation. Reason: LB

TM/09/00040/FL – The Old Malt House Teston Road Offham West Malling Kent ME19 5NB – Mr Jayesh Patel is applying for new porch. Reason: CA

TM/08/03722/FL – Mount Mead Ford Lane Trottiscliffe West Malling Kent ME19 5DP – Mr John Barton is applying for first floor extension to side, single storey and double storey rear extension, extension over front porch, erection of garage and store, replacement entrance gates and new walls to front. Reason: DEPART

TM/09/00064/FL & TM/09/00065/CA – 39 Old Road Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PL – Mrs E Chandler is applying for partial demolition of existing dwelling and construction of extension to create a three bedroom attached dwelling (resubmission of TM08/02908/FL). Reason: CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
EL	Overhead Electricity Line application

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 22 February 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

1 February 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Highways - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Church Road, Warehorne) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the closure of Warehorne Level Crossing for track maintenance, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Warehorne on or after 5 February 2009, for an estimated period of one night between the hours of 11.00 pm and 6.00 am or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via B2067 Kenardington Road, Appledore Road, Church Lane, Firs Lane, Hogg Lane and Arrowhead Lane.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(various roads, Canterbury) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Canterbury from as described in column 1 of the schedule to this order on or after 16 February 2009 for an estimated period of ten weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order

Specified Road	Length of Road Affected	Alternative Routes
St Margarets Street, Canterbury	High Street to Hawks Lane	High Street, St Peters Street, St Peters Place, Rheims Way, Pin Hill, Rhodaus Town and Watling Street
Hawks Lane, Canterbury	Jct St Margarets Street	Stour Street and Beer Cart Lane
Hawks Lane, Canterbury	The City of Canterbury (Traffic Regulation) (Hawks Lane) (One Way) Order 1968 is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order	
St Margarets Street, Canterbury	The City of Canterbury (Traffic Regulation) Order 1937 in respect of St Margarets Street is temporarily suspended for the duration of this order	

This order will come into force on Monday 16 February 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Herne Bay Road, Swalecliffe) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway resurfacing works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Herne Bay Road, Swalecliffe, between the junctions of Kemp Road and Brook Road, on or after 16 February 2009, for up to three nights, or until such works are complete. Burnan Road, Kemp Road, Brook Road and Marine Crescent will also be closed at their junctions with Herne Bay Road.

The work is planned to be carried out overnight between the hours of 7.00 pm and 7.00 am with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route for through traffic (excluding vehicles over 4 metres tall) is via, Chestfield Road, A2990 Thanet Way, Borstal Hill, Canterbury Road, Oxford Street, High Street, Horsebridge Road, Sea Street, Harbour Street, Tower Parade, Tankerton Road and Bennells Avenue/St Swithin's Road.

Vehicles over 4 metres tall should use the above route plus St. Johns Road, Colewood Road, Whitstable Road, Sea Street, Greenhill Bridge Road and A2990 Thanet Way.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MISKIN ROAD, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that The Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 1 and 2 and 124 of and part IV of Schedule 9 the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which has prohibited the waiting of vehicles "At Any Time" on various lengths of Miskin Road, Dartford.

A copy of the Order which comes into operation on Monday 9th February 2009, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Office, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 1XX, and Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford Kent, DA1 1DR

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BURLINGS LANE, KNOCKHOLT (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Burlings Lane, Knockholt for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 16th February 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Shelleys Lane and Main Road.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement of BT poles.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
MUSSENDEN LANE, HORTON KIRBY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Mussenden Lane, Horton Kirby between its junctions with Eglantine Road and Three Gates Road.

The Order will become effective on 2nd February 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Three Gates Road, School Lane and Lombard Street

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Carriageway patching works.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
KNATTS LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Knatts Lane, West Kingsdown for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 2nd February 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: School Lane, A20 London Road, Botsom Lane, Knatts Valley Road.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the replacement of an aerial cable on behalf of BT.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Swan Lane, Sellindge) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway repairs and new kerb works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Swan Lane, Sellindge from its junction with A20 Ashford Road to its junction with Moorstock Lane on 2 February 2009 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Moorstock Lane and A20 Ashford Road.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(North Lane, Faversham) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of heavy equipment using a mobile crane, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Lane, Faversham between the junctions of Partridge Lane and Bridge Road, from 8.00 pm on Saturday 21 February 2009 until 5.00 am on Monday 23 February 2009.

The alternative route for through traffic will be (a) for vehicles up to 13 feet 9 inches high, via Conduit Street, Quay Lane, Court Street, Crescent Road, Newton Road, Station Road, Forbes Road, The Mall, A2 London Road, Ospringe

Road and South Road and (b) for vehicles over 13 feet 9 inches high via Conduit Street, Quay Lane, Court Street, Crescent Road, East Street, Whitstable Road, Love Lane, A2 Canterbury Road, A2 London Road, A2 Ospringe Road, Western Link, Bysing Wood Road, Dark Hill, Curtis Way and West Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Warden Road, Eastchurch) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the provision of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Warden Road, Eastchurch, from the junction with Plough Road to the junction with High Street, on or after 16 February 2009, for an estimated period of one week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via High Street, Lower Road, Eastchurch Road, Chequers Road, Plough Road and Warden Road.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Vicarage Street, Church Street and High Street, St Peters, Broadstairs) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Vicarage Street, Church Street and High Street, St Peters, Broadstairs from outside number 3 Vicarage Street to outside number 2 Church Street and High Street, St Peters at it's junction with Vicarage Street and Church Street on or after 16 February 2009 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A255 Broadstairs Road, A255 St Peters Road, A255 The Broadway, B2053 St Peters Park Road and B2053 Albion Road. Access to High Street via A255 Broadstairs Road and Green Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Hardres Street Ramsgate) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new electricity supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hardres Street Ramsgate from the junction with Staffordshire Street to its junction with Brunswick Street on or after 03/02/2009 for an estimated period of 3 Days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Staffordshire Street, Turner Street and Brunswick Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Ebbsfleet Lane, Ramsgate) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because electricity duct and cable installation and jointing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Ebbsfleet Lane, Ramsgate from A256 Ramsgate Road to the junction with Grinsell Hill on or after 6 February 2009 for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A256 Sandwich Road, A299 Canterbury Road West and Thorne Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(A256 Sandwich Road, Ramsgate) (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because installation of ducting and power cabling works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting all traffic travelling any speed in excess of 40mph on the A256 Sandwich Road, Ramsgate from approximately 115 metres north of its junction with Ebbsfleet Lane north for approximately 1500 metres to the existing 40mph limit near Cliffsend Service Station on or after 6 February 2009 for an estimated period of 10 months or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Ebbsfleet Lane MINSTER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Network Rail track maintenance works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Ebbsfleet Lane Minster from 30 metres each side of the level crossing on or after 22 February 2009 for an estimated period of 01:00am Sunday 22 February to 04:00am Monday 23 February 2009 or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Thorne Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West and A256 Sandwich Road.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(GLASSENBURY ROAD ,CRANBROOK) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2007 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Glassenbury Road at the junction of Turden Road and the junction of A229 on or after Monday 2nd February 20008 for a period of 3 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative routes for the route described above are for Southbound traffic Hartley Road, Angley Road, Goudhurst Road and. Northbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to allow to lay a new water main into Glassenbury should you require any further information about these works, their contact Clair Green on 01634 873243.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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Avensis 'wagon' set to cram extra sales

By **STEVE LOADER**

SALES of family models in the Ford Mondeo class have been hit by the rise of 4x4s, MPVs and premium models like the BMW 3-Series.

But there is growing interest in estate or Tourer versions that might be a spin-off from the 'lifestyle estate' phenomenon created by the likes of the BMW 3-Series Touring and Audi A4 Avant.

Mazda has been one beneficiary, with sales of the latest Mazda6 Estate building upon the fine reputation of the previous car.

And Toyota has also gained; the previous Avensis always looked better in estate form and sold well. Manufacturer and dealers predict even more interest in the newly-launched Avensis Mk III.

It is not hard to see why, since the newcomer is far more eye-catching than its predecessor, with sharper lines than the rounded style of before and the Tourer or estate looks a class act against upmarket German opposition.

The Avensis hatchback option has also been deleted in favour of creating a more 'premium' perception of the model and the estate was built as a separate entity from the saloon, to ensure it could deliver the necessity load capacity, aerodynamics, economy and emissions.

Robert Hobbs, centre manager at Motorline Toyota, Canterbury, said: "We are confident that around half of new Avensis sales will be for the Tourer. It looks great, quality is even higher than before, it's practical and would-be buyers are impressed by the options offered – they can even have cream leather or a panoramic roof, for instance."

This third generation Avensis was engineered and designed in Europe, for exclusive production at Toyota's factory near Derby.

Toyota has pepped up the package with new 'Valvematic' petrol engines for more power and performance yet 10-26 per cent lower emissions via variable valve timing.

Diesel options have also been revised to lower emissions by around 10 per cent and there is even a 'Multidrive S' continuously variable transmission (CVT) option.

This auto gearbox format has not proved popular on larger cars, but Toyota claims to have eradicated the type's characteristic whine.

The drive towards economy and lower emissions was also bound to cause manufacturers to re-evaluate the CVT, especially as they are under pressure to reduce average CO2 emissions across their line-ups – the new Avensis will cut Toyota's fleet average CO2 emissions to 140g/km by 2009.

Toyota made much of the old car's refinement and has driven down NVH – noise, vibration and harshness – levels on the latest car too in a bid to nibble at German premium marque volumes, much as Ford and Vauxhall hope with the latest Mondeo and the Insignia.

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05 55 VW POLO 1-4 S AUTO 3DR BLACK AIR SUNROOF 13000 MILES....£6495
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

More Soul to Kia

KIA'S 'cult car in waiting' goes on sale in March after extensive tuning for UK roads and drivers.

The Korean marque says the new five-door Soul is the first of its cars to get this bespoke ride and handling package, which was completed by Lotus, no less.

Kia UK managing director Paul Philpott said: "The result of our partnership with Lotus is a more composed ride which we think is much more suitable to what our roads can throw at Soul, and additionally, it is also a more exciting car to drive.

"We firmly believe that customers who have never considered a Kia before will look at Soul and see it as a viable option when it comes to buying a new car."

Kia also plans greener versions of its Ford Focus challenger, the Ceed. Six Cee'd ISG (Idle Stop and Go) models delivering up to 15 per cent fuel savings are planned. These cars will also benefit from a lighter manual gearbox to offset the small extra weight of the ISG components.

Kangoo attitude right for today

HAVING started the boom in van-based MPVs, Renault is following-up with an all-new 'fully glazed' version of the latest Kangoo van.

The five-door model due in a few weeks will be joined shortly afterwards by the funky three-door Be-Bop – both should do well in the current economic climate as cut-price family transport or as holdalls for sole traders and small businesses.

The five-door carries on where the previous Kangoo left off, with two rear sliding doors as well as the high-lift tailgate cum rain shelter, but the Be-Bop is a new format aimed at tapping into a younger market.

The budget appeal of the cars will be underpinned by flexible powerplants, notably Renault's powerful yet economical 1.5dCi diesel units.

We can also expect a typically French ride comfort – cars like this truly are the spiritual successors to those French classics, Renault's own '4' and the Citroën 2CV.

Van award winners get week on show

PEUGEOT dealer WJ King has declared next week as 'Van Week' with special deals capitalising on the French brand's six van awards in 2008 and another already for 2009.

The dealer group, with Peugeot outlets at Dartford and Sidcup, has made the triple award-winning Bipper (from £8,195) the star of its LCV (light commercial vans) selection.

The Bipper comes with 1.4-litre petrol or HDi diesel engines and is available with easy and eco-friendly electronically-controlled manual gearbox.

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58 Reg 207 Sport 1.6VTI 5dr Delivery Mileage	£13450	£10695	£2755
58 Reg 207 SW Sport 1.6 VTi 120 Delivery Mileage	£14320	£11245	£3075
58 Reg 308 Sport 1.6VTI 5dr Delivery Mileage	£15370	£11395	£3975
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by STEVELOADER

Soon due in – Mini's all-new cult crop top

MINI fans wanting the roof down have had to make do with a convertible based on the Mk 1 car – even though an all-new hatchback model arrived in 2006.

But March brings an all-new Mini crop top and, hopefully, better weather economically and atmospherically in which to enjoy it.

Initially, it will be available in the more premium Cooper (from £15,995) and Cooper S (from £18,995) formats, but expect a cheaper One entry model later on in order to chase demand that made the Mark 1 Britain's best-selling small convertible from 2004-2008.

The new car looks more solid than before and parent brand BMW claims that 'scuttle shake' or reduced stiffness – caused by chopping the roof – has also been moderated, yet weight has been curbed by 10 kilos and boot capacity marginally improved.

It also gains BMW's award-winning EfficientDynamics systems for better economy and CO2 emissions. These features, already seen on the Mini hatch and other BMWs, include Auto Start Stop, Brake Energy Regeneration – recovering energy otherwise lost in barking – and Shift Point Display, which advises on the best moments to change gear.

The halo model for the line-up will be the high-performance Mini Cooper S Convertible with its distinctive bonnet power bulge and air scoop plus large twin tailpipes, rear bumper diffuser and two-piece rear fog lamp. For the first-time in a Mini Convertible, air con is standard and there is a lockable glovebox 'cooler'.

The automatic canvas roof retracts or closes in just 15 seconds and even at speeds of up to 20mph – nice to have if there is a sudden downpour.

As an alternative to the complete top-down driving experience, the full width of the electric roof can be retracted by approximately 40cms to create 'a sunroof' and at speeds of up to 75mph.

Unlike its predecessor's fixed anti-roll hoops, which tended to hamper rearward vision, the new car features a single-piece roll bar behind the rear seats that pops up in milliseconds and protects passengers in any collision.

Rear passengers can also adjust the height of their head rests this time too.

However, the optional 'Openometer', recording the time spent by the owner driving with the top down, sounds like one marketing gimmick too many… or a poser's delight.

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58 Reg Mazda Mazda5 2.0d Sport 5dr	£14,290	£16,624	£2,334
07 Reg Mazda Mazda6 2.0 TS2 [147] 5dr	£8,590	£17,930	£9,340
57 Reg Mazda Cx-7 2.3T 5dr	£15,190	£24,448	£9,258
08 Reg Mazda Mx-5 1.8i [Option Pack]	£11,849	£16,203	£4,354
08 Reg Mazda Mx-5 2.0i [Option Pack]	£12,499	£17,181	£4,682

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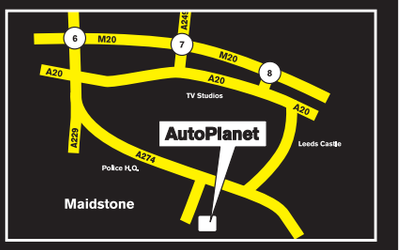

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06 56 Jeep Cherokee 2.8 CRD Limited Black Leather Cruise Sat Nav Climate 17,086 Miles **£9,974**
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08 08 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland Black Black Leather Cruise Front/Rear Parking Aid Sat Nav Rear DVD System 8,894 Miles **£22,974**
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08 08 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD SRT Design Saloon Black Grey Leather Cruise Heated seats 6,500 Miles **£24,974**
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08 08 Dodge Caliber 2.0 SXT Sport (CVT) Marine Blue Air Conditioning 8,582 Miles **£9,474**
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04 04 Chrysler Crossfire 3.2 Coupe Machine Grey Black Leather Climate Cruise 44,500 Miles **£9,974**
08 08 Chrysler Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive Mineral Grey Leather Cruise Climate 12,522 Miles **£12,974**
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08 57 Dodge Avenger 2.0 CRD SE Inferno Red Air Conditioning CD/MP3/DVD 7,850 Miles **£11,974**
06 56 Dodge Caliber 2.0 CRD SXT Bright Silver with Grey Leather Air Conditioning CD 20,380 Miles **£8,974**
07 57 Dodge Caliber 2.0 SXT Sport CVT Auto Bright silver CD Air conditioning 9,000 Miles **£9,974**
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08 08 Jeep Patriot 2.0 CRD Limited Bright silver Leather Air Conditioning 10,500 Miles **£12,674**
07 07 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive Bright silver Leather Air Conditioning Cruise Control Rear Parking Aid 13,660 Miles **£12,974**
07 07 Chrysler Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Executive Bright silver Leather Air Conditioning Cruise Rear Parking Aid 13,500 Miles **£12,974**
07 57 Jeep Commander 3.0 V6 CRD Limited Bright silver Leather Climate Front/Rear Parking Aid Roof Rails Cruise 13,450 Miles **£13,474**
08 08 Dodge Nitro 2.8 CRD SXT Auto Metallic Silver Leather Air conditioning CD/mp3/dvd Rear parking aid 9,200 Miles **£15,974**
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08 08 Jeep Grand Voyager 2.8 CRD Touring Bright silver Climate Radio/CD/MP3/DVD ipod Preparation 6,250 Miles **£19,974**
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Grandis 2.0 D-ID Equippe, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Diesel, 2007 07 Reg, 191 miles, Silver, 1 Owner. ABS ..... was ~~£14495~~ ..... **now £12995**
L200 Warrior Double Cab, 4 Doors, Diesel, 2008 58 Reg, 214 miles, Metallic Black, 1 Owner. ABS +VAT ..... was ~~£16995~~ ..... **now £15495**
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DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

VW Passatt CC

The nice way to go to hell

AFTER raving about the latest VW Golf – a downsize to tempt diehard big car fans – I find myself initially struck dumb by the new Passat CC.

For if we are going to hell in a global economic meltdown then the 'handcart' is not going to be what appears to be a vastly expensive four-door luxury coupé.

But the CC is less a toy for a fat cat who tripped us onto the slippery slope to ruin, but more a sound buy for a canny sort with financial feet still on firm ground.

He or she might have their heart set on the dramatic Mercedes-Benz CLS four-door coupé, but allowed the brain to say: "But that starts at £46,000 – think again, especially now the world has gone belly-up."

Then along comes the CC, from less than half the price and drop dead gorgeous too. Sold.

Okay, there are a few caveats. For instance, what was VW thinking of when naming it CC? These initials have been widely used elsewhere to describe a 'coupé convertible', yet this CC's roof does not fold, although frameless door windows suggest VW has this trick up its sleeve for later.

Apparently, the abbreviation was coined for 'Concept Coupé' and then morphed into 'Comfort Coupe', which is apt though I suspect 'Confused Coupe' will linger in the minds of cynics.

There is also the suspicion that this is one concept that really should have come out of upmarket sister Audi's marketing department rather than VW's, but maybe the senior brand needed something to pep up the image of its Passat family saloon/estate line?

And it does that all right.

Not that there is much of the saloon left above the platform – the racy CC is longer, wider and some 5cms lower than its prim sister.

At the cost of the saloon's fifth seat, the CC can also carry four people in considerable comfort though rear headroom is compromised slightly by that lower roofline.

Amazingly, there is even more boot space too – 47 litres extra to impress the golfing set and convince the family buyer he is not giving up on practicality – plus a ski slot between the rear chairs.

Indeed, it is the CC's ability to please across the board without conceding everyday convenience that really counts and a modest premium of £5,000 more than the cheapest Passat saloon.

And don't think the mainstream car's interior has been simply carried over; the CC's cabin is far more in keeping with its upmarket image and there is also a £795 panoramic roof option as fitted to the test car – it might not be a drop-top yet, but the glass roof makes the CC the next best thing.

I was also pleased to be testing the CC in its 'raw state'; apart from that roof and a few other options our car was the entry model – the 1.8-litre petrol – and it shows this car can look poshed on the cheap.

The engine is smooth, economical and powerful enough for a relatively weighty car, yet makes it feel light on its feet, helped by excellent speed-sensitive steering; the CC might look too big to carry off the Coupé label, but it can definitely hack it.

There are all kinds of gadgets you can add, yet even the all-wheel drive 3.6-litre V6 with VW's famed auto/manual DSG gearbox will set you back just £31,000 before you raid the options list. It does not sound like a lot of money for a car that turns heads from every angle and, as our minimal list of potential rivals shows, there are few four-door cars that offer such style for similar outlay.

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08 08 Auris 1.6 SR 5dr, Dark Blue	£11,965	08 08 LC V8 4.5 D-4D 5dr A, Astral Black	£51,965
08 58 Auris 2.0 D-4D TR 5dr, Eclipse Black	£12,965	05 05 MR2 1.8 2dr, Lagoon Blue	£7,965
07 07 Auris 1.6 TR 5dr, Decuma Grey	£9,765	06 56 Prius 1.5 T4 5dr, Glacier Blue Metallic	£12,965
07 57 Auris 2.2 D-4D T180 5dr, Decuma Grey Metallic	£10,765	08 08 RAV4 2.2 D-4D SR180 5dr, Black	£18,965
05 55 Avensis 1.8 T3-x 5dr, Silver Steel Metallic	£7,965	08 57 RAV4 2.2 D-4D XTR 5dr, Tyrol Silver	£17,265
07 57 Avensis 2.2 D-4D T Spirit 5dr, Eclipse Black Metallic	£11,965	06 56 RAV4 2.0 XT4 5dr, Carbon Quartz	£11,965
04 54 Avensis 2.0 T4 5dr, Dark Blue Metallic	£6,965	04 54 Verso 1.8 T Spirit 5dr, Silver Steel	£7,765
06 56 AYGO 1.0 + MMT 5dr, Crystal Silver Metallic	£6,465	08 57 Verso 2.2 D-4D SR 5dr, Decuma Grey	£14,765
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DrivingStats

- VW Passat CC 1.8-litre TSI £21,065
- Model range: £test car-31,145
- Garage stats: 4.80m by 1.85m four-door coupe
- Powertrain: 1,798cc/158bhp four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 138mph and 0-62mph in 8.6 seconds
- How green?: category-E (£170/year) road tax - 180g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 37.2mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 70 litres/15.3 gallons
- Insurance group: 13E
- Warranty: three years/unlimited miles.
- Website: www.volkswagen.co.uk
- Rivals: Alfa Romeo 159, BMW 3-Series Saloon, Citroën C5, Honda Accord, Mazda6, Mercedes-Benz C-Class Sport and Vauxhall Insignia.

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DAIHATSU

MATERIA, 1.5 MPV 5d 1495cc, 58/2008, alloy wheels electricdoor mirrors radio/cd player a/con front fog lamps reverse parking sensors remote central locking, steel grey, 2000 miles, £11, 895, Cheriton Motor House, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

SIRION, 1.0 SE Hatchback 5d 998cc, 58/2008, abs pas remote c/locking radio/cd player electric windows a/con reverse parking sensors, bright red, 2500 miles, £8495, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

TERIOS, 1.3 Sport Station Wagon 5d 1298cc, 05 2005, remote central locking, a.b.s, electric windows, electric mirrors, power assisted steering, twin srs airbags, cd radio system, air conditioning, 5 speed gearbox, grey cloth interior, roof spoiler, side opening rear door, parcel shelf, large boot, alloy wheels, front and rear fog lamps, full service history. metallic blue and grey, miles, £6795, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

FIAT

FIAT DOBLO CARGO, 12 05, 1.3 multijet diesel white 29, 000 rm, 0 miles, £2995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FIAT SCUDO, 09 2006, 2.0 jtd dynamic cd elec tric windows ply lined 23.000 miles fsh manufactuers warranty, £5995, Beaver Commercials, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

BRAVO 100 SX, 2001, 1.6 engine. pas c/lock s/hist very reasonly priced. a 3 month warrenty is offerd on the screen price and we will take your old car in part exchange. a new mot test will be included. blue, 75, 000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

CINQUECENTO, m/1994, manual locking manual windows, red, 74, 000 miles, £was £695 now £595, Cheriton Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Dynamic Jtd, gf54ylg, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, power steering, air bag, child locks, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, roof rails, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, alloy wheels, black, 41000 miles, £4690, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, bp57ovu, abs, air bag, twin air bags, electric front windows, cd player, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, rear headrests, folding rear seats, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, trip computer, child locks, metallic paintwork, radio, steering wheel audio controls, stereo, jungle grey met, 12770 miles, £5499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

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FORD

C-MAX, 1.8 Zetec 5dr, fy57ryf, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, air con, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, seat-back tables, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, quick-clear screen, metallic paintwork, automatic electric windows, electric front windows, stereo, radio, cd player, 16'' alloys, tango red met, 13814 miles, £8499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

ESCORT, FLIGHT 1.6 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, 2001 x, 01 (x), 5 door hatch, metallic cherry coachwork with contrasting black cloth trim, service history with recent service, new mot, only one family owner from new, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, electric windows, tinted glass, sun roof, multiple air bags, abs brakes, original hi-fi. low cost motoring for only £1495, metallic cherry, 109000 miles, £1495, Riviera Car Sales, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec 1399cc 5 door, 2002, cd player central locking driver's airbag power steering history check, metallic green, 74400 miles, £3495, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 TDCi Studio 5dr (2005 - 2007), 23/08/2005, driver airbag power steering immobiliser, silver, 14625 miles, £6999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr (2008 -), 30/06/2008, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 2200 miles, £17617, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCi ECOnetic 5dr, cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, grey, 12610 miles, £14681, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MUSTANG, 3.8 v6 coupe, 1995, silver, 23579 miles, £5495, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUMA, 16v 3dr, 6238079, remote central locking, alarm, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, electric mirrors, height adjustable seat, air conditioning, cd player, radio, abs, power steering, traction control, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, silver, 67500 miles, £2995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, Gsi 5dr, gk52ymp, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, stereo, aluminium silver, 60000 miles, £2699, Marshams, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

AMICA, CDX 5dr, lv56jva, immobiliser, power steering, abs, electric front windows, cd player, alloy wheels, blue, 6000 miles, £3995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

COUPE, SE 1975cc 3 door, 2006, cd player air conditioning alloy wheels central locking approved driver's airbag power steering history check electric windows, silver, 17200 miles, £7995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

GETZ, Gsi SE 3dr, en06 fdk, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, twin air bags, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, central locking, red, 26800 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MATRIX, Gsi, fy55 crz, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, roof rails, central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, twin air bags, abs, alloy wheels, silver/green, 17500 miles, £3995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY 3, 2005 05, black discovery 3 05, black, 65000 miles, £1090000, Maidstone, Kent, 01622 863118 (PRIVATE)

FREELANDER, 2000, insurance group 11 alarm drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors immobiliser power steering radio/cassette remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment 3 owners service history, tango orange, 38000 miles, £2489, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 3dr, gf05nxu, remote central locking, half leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, 17'' alloys, black roof, chilli red, 46000 miles, £8699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

COOPER S, 1.6 3 DR, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 42000 miles, £9395, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

PROTON

PERSONA, 1.5 GLSi Saloon 4d 1468cc auto, s 1999, electric windows, power assisted steering, drivers airbag, sunroof, remote mirrors, radio cassette. green, miles, £1995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, DYNAMIQUE 1.2 3DR, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, mercury, 26000 miles, £5795, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

ESPACE, PRIVILEGE 2.2 DCI, 2004, trim: cloth engine size: 2200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, eclipse grey, 33550 miles, £10995, Palm Bay, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

GRAND SCENIC, gv55mby, immobiliser, central locking, anti-theft system, cloth upholstery, head restraints, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, blue, 9000 miles, £5995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

KANGOO, EXPRESSION 1.6 AUTO 16V, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: automatic no. of doors: 5, blue, 14363 miles, £6995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, EXTREME 2.0 16V, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 2000 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, storm blue, 15830 miles, £7495, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SCENIC, PRIVILEGE + 1.6, 2005, trim: part leather engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, extreme blue, 21500 miles, £7995, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

TRAFIC, SL27 DCI 100bhp With Air Con, en05pof, side load door, plylined, bulkhead, dual passenger seat, cd player, air bag, abs, air conditioning, power steering, remote central locking, white, 32000 miles, £4795, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

TWINGO, GT TURBO, 2007, trim: cloth engine size: 1200 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, pearl black, 3000 miles, £9895, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SKODA

CADDY, w, very low mileage, white, 25, 000 miles, £1999, Bob Fisher Garage, Ashford, 01303 814131 (TRADE)

FELICIA, 1.3 L 5dr, 12/03/1999, red, 48000 miles, £1500, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

OCTAVIA, 1.4 16v Classic 5dr cd player abs driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, 45951 miles, £5000, Invicta Motors, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TVR

350I TASMIN (WEDGE), 1989 (f), 89 (f) tvr 350i convertible, dark met blue coachwork with contrasting cream leather sports trim with blue piping, black mohair soft top, big brake conversion, goodrich hoses etc, original service books, ew, em, quality cd hi-fi, alloys, only 3 former keepers. £4995, 70,000 miles, £4995, Riviera Car Sales, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

CORSA 3dr, Hatchback, 1.3 Manual, P reg, Yellow 65,000 mile, MOT Feb 09 Radio, sunroof, £550 ono 01634 845442 (PRIVATE)

FRONTERA, 2.2i 16v Limited Station Wagon 5d 2198cc, 52 2002, immobiliser, remote central locking, electric windows/mirrors, power assisted steering, twin srs airbags, cd radio system, grey cloth interior, split rear door, internal dog guard, tow bar, factory fitted roof rails, alloys, front and rear fog lamps, service history. metallic silver, miles, £5495, Westbrook Cars, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

INSIGNIA, 2009, technical grey, 0 miles, £24995, WJ King Vauxhall, Welling, 020 8303 1234 (TRADE)

MERIVA, 2008, 3x3 point rear seat belts abs audio remote control body coloured bumpers cloth seat trim cruise control drivers airbag electric-door mirrors electric sunroof front electric windows front fog lights front head restraints heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag rear electric windows remote central locking trip computer, air blue, 16130 miles, £7995, WJ King Vauxhall, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

SIGNUM EXCLUSIVCDTI, 2007, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check climate control electric windows, star silver, 9950 miles, £12995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

TIGRA, Exclusiv 1364cc 2 door, 2006, cd player abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking approved driver's airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, star silver, 15975 miles, £9495, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

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For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **46**.

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Bridge to the future

A RESEARCH spin-off from a £50 million initiative launched by Housing Minister Margaret Beckett has landed in Dartford, ***writes Tony Patey.***

Thirty people are working on research projects at The Bridge, part of the 7,000 jobs officials claim will be created by the initiative and development of the rest of the site.

The facilities are linked to a £40 million research centre at Dagenham to be built over the next three years by the Thames Gateway Institute for Sustainability.

Research and demonstration projects worth more than £10 million will be carried out. Mrs Beckett said the initiative will lead to the development of innovations aimed at reducing "negative impacts on the environment". She said it represents collaboration by global leaders in academia and business to form a public-private partnership aimed at bringing innovations to market more quickly. With the contribution of the environmental technology sector set to double over the next eight years, the institute should be a magnet for investment and jobs.

Early research projects are focusing on construction, energy and waste.

Ed Metcalfe, chief scientific advisor at the South East England Development Agency, said: "The institute provides a real opportunity to test and implement new technologies. It will provide credible, independent data on their performance in use."

Ian Short, deputy chief executive of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, said: "The institute is central to the Government's plan to establish the Gateway as the world's first eco-region."

Research at Dartford includes a low to zero-carbon trial on homes. The project uses innovative insulation, renewable energy and water-saving technologies. An initial pilot will include 10 homes at Temple Hill, with plans to extend to 400-500 properties at mixed use sites.

There is also a project capturing carbon from algae in a sustainable and cost-effective way. C-Questor LLP will construct algae ponds to produce biomass for energy.

It will also explore the possibilities for secondary products such as soil remediation agents, pharmaceuticals and food additives. FirstLight Energy is another commercial partner in the venture, promoting light capture using fibre optic technology.

Academic inputs are led by the University of Greenwich. The Bridge mixes employment and residential development with community, retail and leisure facilities on a 264-acre brownfield site.

Delegates urged to plan ahead

KENT businesses asking how they are going to survive the recession should instead be posing the question: How do we flourish and position ourselves for the upturn?

That was a key message from last week's Recession Buster event run by Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Kent Science Park at Sittingbourne.

STEVE WOOD

Delegates at the Newton House conference centre heard Steve Wood, growth programme director of Baker Tilly, warn against a knee-jerk reaction towards cutting costs. It might, for example, be better to ease prices slightly to show that a business is putting a value on giving a particularly good service in relation to rivals. Obviously, managing risk and cashflow are vital, but strategy and acquisition should also figure high on the agenda.

NICK HOBDEN

Mr Wood also outlined what banks are looking for when deciding about lending, from having a clear strategy and business plan to willingness of management to commit funds.

Nick Hobden, a partner at law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore, said 'downsizing' can cover redundancy, retirement, issues surrounding capability and misconduct, and changing the terms of, for example, pay and hours. Employees may consider taking sabbaticals or career breaks.

Delegates were also told that businesses and individuals worrying about paying tax on time can contact the Revenue's Business Payment Support Service. The number is 0845 3021435 and lines are open 8am to 8pm during the week and 8am to 4pm at weekends.

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Setting the scene can put Garden of England on the international movie map

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Garden of England has some of the loveliest scenery in the country – and what better industry to take advantage than film-making and its spin-offs? This is where the Kent Film Office comes in, set up in 2006 by KCC. For every £1 spent on location another £2.50 is spent in the local economy, and more than £5 million has been generated since 2006. KFO has helped with everything from big budget films such as The Other Boleyn Girl to television dramas Spooks and EastEnders. Day-to-day work is carried out by a small team headed by **Tanya Oliver**, right, head of the strategic development unit, and Kent film officer **Gabrielle Lindemann**, left. Here they talk with KOS Media Business Editor Tony Patey:

Q *What are your backgrounds?*

A T: I've worked at KCC for 10 years in a range of roles and have been in the film office for two years.
G: I did a degree in film video and photographic arts and from there went to the BBC. I stayed about 10 years in production, then became freelance for another five years.

Q *Where is KFO now?*

A T: It's come an incredibly long way since 2006. We have an established website with a range of information on locations, crews, facilities and what has been filmed in Kent. We work closely with district and borough councils, our partners English Heritage, the National Trust and Screen South.
G: At the start it was just me, but it became clear very quickly – what with answering the phone, mapping the county for locations and creating the website – that we needed help. Film inquiries have gone from about 250 in the first year up to 500. There are two extra staff.

Q *What about the future?*

A T: We have just developed the Kent film and television strategy 2008-12 and one of the key parts of that is putting together a development fund.

The problem is that we have one of the few parts of the UK which doesn't have a pot of money to attract film and television.

We did have a pilot investment in The Calling, which was £75,000, and that spun off half a million into the local economy, but that was a one-off. We want to do that in a more measured way and be on a par with the rest of the UK. The endgame is to put Kent first on the filming map.
G: Once we have a development fund we'll still need to have the locations and the infrastructure, and to attract the right business.

One of the major aims is to map the county and market it internationally. The money is the carrot, but we'll still need to provide the best service.

Q *Is there a figure for the fund?*

A T: We're looking for about half a million pounds. We'll put some in, and then try and attract match-funding from the South East England Development Agency and perhaps money from Europe as well.

Q *What about home-grown production units?*

A G: If you compare us with counties with major studio complexes, such as Manchester or Pinewood, we have comparatively little infrastructure here, but on the other hand if you look round Maidstone Studios we have quite a high level of support.

We have a large sector of small firms that do corporate work. If you want to support large film and television productions, we would need to grow that sector, but I don't think that would be difficult because the industry goes where the work is.

Q *What are your favourite films?*

A T: Watership Down, and Pride and Prejudice.
G: Coen brothers, European art cinema, Kent-born director Peter Greenaway, anything new and weird.

Q *How do you relax?*

A G: I wander the Kent countryside with a camera in my hand. I also have an allotment.
T: I read a lot, everything and anything. And I like walking, especially in the Lake District.

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This time it's personal

By **LIZ RULE**
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

FURTHER detail is emerging about Personal Accounts – the pension plans every employee will have to contribute to from 2012 unless they are already in a good quality scheme.

Firstly, the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority (PADA) set up to organise the scheme has asked organisations to tender for its administration.

The chosen applicant will be responsible for setting contribution schedules, managing contribution limits and dealing with late payments. The winner need not necessarily be a pensions expert but should have the capacity to cope with millions of data records and have efficient online systems. Early interest has been from Europe and North America, so it may not be a UK organisation.

PADA will draw up a shortlist of three to six bids by April, narrowing it to three and a announcing a decision by June 2010.

Meanwhile, there is speculation that the end of voluntary provision in 2012 will lead to employers using the introduction of Personal Accounts as an opportunity to review schemes and lower contributions.

The Association of Consulting Actuaries discovered in a recent survey that almost two-thirds of employers predicted lowering the pension benefits they provide or even closing schemes in the wake of Personal Accounts. They also found more people expected to opt out and not save than is predicted by the Government, so Personal Accounts could end up being a bit of a flop that damages existing schemes.

Shadow work and pensions secretary Chris Grayling suggested recently that Stakeholder Pensions may be an alternative to Personal Accounts, so we don't know what could happen if there is a change of government in the next couple of years.

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NORWICH UNION £33.27	NORWICH UNION	£44.21	SCOT PROVDNT	£64.12	SCOT PROVDNT	£97.71
BUPA £33.31	BRIGHT GREY	44.81	NORWICH UNION	£64.77	FRIENDS PRVDNT	£101.11
FRIENDS PRVIDNT £33.73	SCOT PRVIDNT	£45.04	BRIGHT GREY	£65.24	ZURICH	£101.26
BRIGHT GREY £34.15	FRIENDS PRVIDNT	£45.63	LV=	£65.27	BRIGHT GREY	£101.37

* THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AS AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Firms on the move warned of pitfalls

BUSINESSES thinking of moving to less expensive rental premises or cutting back on space are being urged to avoid the pitfalls.

Matthew Dugdale of Kingsley Smith Solicitors LLP, said: "Failing to give notice at the right time can be expensive – most quarterly leases require the tenant to pay the rent until the end of the subsequent quarter.

"Also agree early on the dilapidations for which you are responsible. It may be cheaper to make any necessary repairs yourself."

Firms on the move should also make sure they are not breaking contracts with employees – a modern contract should cover this.

Mr Dugdale said: "If you are assigning your lease, check the position as regards the guarantee of the incoming tenant's obligations. Not only can you find yourself with an unexpected liability if the new tenant defaults, but your bank may keep your account on a tighter reign while the potential liability hangs over you."

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.79% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2012
OD: £1,334

FIRST ACTIVE RBS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.19% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2011
OD: £1,029

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 30/04/2011
OD: £1,030

MARSDEN
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.19% **L:** 75% **U:** 29/02/2012
OD: £1,024

OTHER

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.39% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/05/2011
OD: £2,634

ALLIANCE &LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.59% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS
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Gills chief praises boss for breathing new life into team

Give Stimmo his due, says Scally

By: PHIL HOUGHTON

GOOD JOB: Paul Scally (left) says Mark Stimson is responsible for the "culture change" at Priestfield

By DAVID PRITCHARD

GILLINGHAM fans should be grateful to manager Mark Stimson for giving them something to cheer about for the first time in years, according to club chairman Paul Scally.

After a slow start to the season, Gills have shown signs in recent weeks of being capable of challenging for automatic promotion from League Two. The club have not posted a top half finish for six seasons, a largely barren spell for fans who have seen the club relegated twice.

Stimson, who was hired by Scally to instigate a "culture change" at Priestfield, was in charge as the club were relegated last year after being appointed mid-season.

The chairman resisted calls from some supporters to sack the manager last summer and believes Gills are starting to reap the rewards.

"I'm delighted for the manager because he took a lot of unjustified criticism when he joined us," he said. "He had a load of problems to sort out and it's taken him, as it would any decent manager, six months to a year to sort all the issues out and get his new team playing as they are now.

"It's very pleasing for everyone at the club because for the first time in four or five years we are having a go at something again. It's a lovely feeling and long may it continue.

"It's a whole new era now with new players, no agendas and a team that wants to play for each other. There are no hidden agendas, no camps and there's very much a unity between everyone at the club and that's a nice feeling really."

But not everyone is so convinced. There were boos around Priestfield from a section of the fans on the final whistle as Gills lost 2-1 to Lincoln City on Tuesday night, even though it was their first league defeat at home since August.

Stimson, who has had a mixed relationship with the fans during his 15 months in charge, believes he will always have some sceptics but remains unfazed by the invective.

He said: "I'm not really worried about the encouragement from the supporters to be honest. We're a strong group and there's a few in there like me who get a buzz out of that, a mad kick out of people putting me down.

"I've had it at Grays and Stevenage and I really do get off on it. I won't ever win them all over, but that's not a problem."

Scally has also been a focus for unhappy fans during the low points of his 14-year spell at the club.

He said: "I think fans get frustrated and when they do they just vent their anger on the people who are easiest to vent their anger on.

"That's either me, the players or the manager, that's the culture of football really. But I think we've always been fairly focused and believed in each other."

Shakey ups the pace in superbike testing

BRITISH superbike champion Shane Byrne is among the favourites to win the opening round of the 2009 World Superbike Championship after going quickest in an official test in Portugal.

The Sheppey rider shocked fellow competitors and works teams in the paddock at the Portimao circuit by recording the quickest lap time on all three days of the test last Sunday. Byrne set a time 0.2 seconds faster than factory Ducati riders Ben Spies and Noriyuki Haga.

The test was Byrne's second at the Portuguese circuit with his new team Sterilgarda Ducati, and the Kent rider was delighted with his performance.

He told the team website: "The last three days of testing have been really useful. I got a good feeling with the bike and I was able to test different solutions especially on the set-up and on the suspension.

"The team did a really good job and they made the bike more suitable for my riding style. As a consequence, we recorded excellent times. Being the quickest rider for three days in a row is a big satisfaction and it allows me hope for the future."

Despite his pace in the test, Byrne is worried riding for an independent Ducati team, rather than a works team, could halt his title ambitions if there is not a regular supply of bike developments from Ducati throughout the season.

Byrne, who has two World superbike wins to his name after clinching a wild card double at Brands Hatch in 2003, begins his World series campaign at Phillip Island in Australia on March 1.

Picture: TEAM STERILGARDA.COM

FAST LAP: Shane Byrne has impressed while testing in Portugal

Crusaders aim to make big leap into cup final

A CAPACITY crowd is expected to watch Kent Crusaders' bid to reach a national cup final today in a game described as the biggest in the club's history.

The county's top basketball side play Team Northumbria in the Patron's Cup semi-final, which is expected to draw a record 350 fans to Canterbury High School.

The winners will meet either Leeds Carnegie or London Mets in the final, which is played next month on the same day as other national basketball finals.

Crusaders head coach Mads Olesen believes the benefits for the club would be massive if they reach the showpiece event.

He said: "It's the biggest game in the club's history and is a chance to show off to the whole country what we are all about.

"Everybody knows about it in the basketball world and it would raise our profile for sponsors and fans, so it would be huge."

Crusaders go into the game in good form in English Basketball League Division Two after beating leaders Leeds with the final shot of the game last weekend. After narrowly escaping relegation last season, the Crusaders are on course to reach the play-offs.

They are above today's opponents in the table and beat them 74-70 when the sides met in the north east earlier on this season, but Olesen doesn't see his side as favourites.

He said: "Northumbria have a track record where even if they're not doing well in the league they perform in the big games, so I would put our chances at 50/50. The two teams know each other well and I think it will come down to who shows up on the day."

Tip-off is at 1pm.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

SEMI-FINAL: Canterbury Crusaders (in blue) aim to reach the Patron's Cup final

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Kent add Hock as batting back up

By GLENN PEARSON

JAMES Hockley's return to the Kent fold is a sign the club are committed to investing in players from across the county, according to coach Simon Willis.

The 29-year-old played for the county between 1998 and 2002 although he found his appearances limited and became more of a feature in one-day cricket.

He scored more than 1,000 runs in one-day cricket and bowled useful off-spinners meaning his return to the club after seven years of not playing First Class cricket will more than likely see him feature in Kent's limited overs squad rather than the County Championship.

After scoring 583 runs at an average of 48 for Hartley Country Club in the Kent Premier League, Hockley will give hope to county-based players hoping to make the step up.

Value

Coach Simon Willis said: "If you look at every player we have signed this year, they are all a product of the Kent system and that includes spinner Rob Ferley. Hopefully that sends out a message that we are looking around the county if players are good enough.

"James has done well in the last few years in the Kent League and is someone we have kept an eye on since he was released.

"We had to look at the market to see what was value for money – we could have signed a second-string batter we knew nothing about but that would have been a much higher risk."

The club is holding a trial during half-term for potential domestic players outside the county, but Willis has already been running his eye over some potential new players.

BACK IN THE FOLD: James Hockley, pictured playing for Kent in 2001 Picture: GETTY IMAGES

Dave Burton, 23, featured in Kent's pre-season games last year before securing a move to Middlesex. He has been training with Kent this week and the medium pace bowler is just one of several who will be hoping for a place at St Lawrence.

Willis added: "We have been looking at lots of players because as people know, we have a small squad and with potential England call ups we might need some more options. We will be inviting players from outside the county during half-term to see if there is anyone out there for us."

Keep up with the county's sporting action
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Picture: GETTY IMAGES

QUALIFIER: Gerard Greene will play in China

China is in Greene's hand after qualifying

GERARD Greene recorded the best win of a disappointing season to qualify for the China Open last weekend.

The 35-year-old, who lives in Rainham, beat 2007 Shanghai Masters champion Dominic Dale 5-1 at the qualifying tournament in Prestatyn. Following an earlier victory against Andy Lee, it booked his place in the Beijing tournament.

It put an end to defeats in qualifying events for five tournaments, securing only his second appearance at a ranking event this season and the first since the Northern Ireland Trophy in August.

The run of form has seen Greene slip to 34 in the provisional rankings, but a good performance in China would see him net crucial ranking points and return to the top 32 for next season.

Next up for Greene is arguably the biggest match of his season as he competes in the qualifying event for the World Snooker Championships in Sheffield. He needs two wins next month to seal a fourth career appearance at the Crucible in April.

Duo drive for Walker Cup place

KENT golfers Tom Sherreard and Matt Haines hope to catch the eye of Walker Cup selectors while on England duty at the Jones Cup Invitational tournament in America next week.

Sherreard from Maidstone and Haines from Medway are part of the eight-man England team to battle against the best amateur golfers in the world in the 54-hole event which begins next Friday.

The tournament is a prelude to the Walker Cup, the amateur game's version of the Ryder Cup, which begins on September 12 at Merion Golf Club in Pennsylvania.

Both Sherreard and Haines have one eye on trying to impress selectors at next week's Jones Cup at Georgia's Ocean Hills Golf Club.

The Walker Cup follows the format of the Ryder Cup with the best amateurs from Great Britain and Ireland taking on America in a match play event.

A good performance at the Walker Cup can often lead to amateur golfers making the step up to the professional game.

Sherreard, 21, who starred at last year's Open Championship at Royal Birkdale by finishing in 19th place, admitted one of the reasons he has decided to stay an amateur is to play in the Walker Cup.

He said: "The Walker Cup was certainly in my mind when I went into the Open Championship and my performance there should really help me try and make the squad."

ON COURSE: Matt Haines (left) and Tom Sherreard are bidding for Walker Cup spots

The Chart Hills Golf Club member is based in America studying at Georgia State University and feels there are advantages and disadvantages to be had from playing regularly in the States.

He said: "There are far more tournaments to play in out there compared to Britain which is good for my game, but it allows the USA team to see how I play which could be a problem."

Haines, who has won the McEvoy Trophy and a regular feature in the England amateur team, is likely to be considered for place in the Walker Cup team, so an impressive performance next week could guarantee him a spot in the team.

Haines and Sherreard are set to begin their Jones Cup campaign next Friday.

Euro aces ready for winter series

A HOST of European Rallycross stars are expected at Lydden Hill next Saturday to take part in the final round of the Winter Rallycross Series.

The Dover race circuit received more than 50 entries for the event as drivers aim to learn the track before the opening round of the European Rallycross Championship in April. The track itself has undergone a number of changes with a new section constructed.

In the first round of the Winter Rallycross Series last month, Liam Doran stormed to victory and is aiming to continue his form and take the title.

Managing director Amy Doran said: "We are expecting a good crowd for the event as this is the last chance for all the European drivers to come over and practice on a circuit which is brand new to them."

The circuit faces a final inspection from the FIA following the event to make sure the facility is ready to host the European Rallycross Championship on Easter Monday.

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Kent invest ahead of new season **63**

PICK: Martin van Jaarsveld is also on the auction list to take part in the IPL series

'I COULD EARN A BOB OR TWO'

Kent captain on list for place in lucrative Indian Twenty20 series

EXCLUSIVE

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT could have a major decision to make this week if skipper Rob Key and vice-captain Martin van Jaarsveld are picked at the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction.

The two Kent batsmen were shock names on the list to take part in the multi-million pound Twenty20 competition, although with 146 other players to fit into eight teams, or franchises as they are known, they will do well to be included.

Bidding

The IPL teams will bid for players at an auction in Goa on Friday with the bidding for England's star batsman Kevin Pietersen set to start at $1.35 million.

In the event captain Key and arguably the club's best batsman, van Jaarsveld, were to be picked by one of the franchises, Kent, and the players themselves, would have a big decision to make.

The tournament takes place between April 10 and May 29, meaning Key and van Jaarsveld would miss three County Championship games, eight Friends Provident Trophy ties and two Twenty20 matches.

Key, 29, was only made aware of his name being on the auction list when contacted earlier this week by Kent on Sunday, while the club were also unaware until we broke the news to them on Thursday.

The county's skipper was surprised he made the list of 21 English players and was typically humble about his chances of being picked by one of the eight Indian franchises.

"To be honest I haven't got any aspirations and I don't see myself as having much of a chance," he said. "It was one of those things when I was asked 'do you want to be on it' and I thought I have nothing to lose, but I'm not holding out much hope of getting the gig.

"I thought I would see what happens but I think there'll be a few people disappointed with it really. My guess is the big guns of England like the Pietersens and Flintoffs will certainly get picked up but from then on you're not really sure who else."

The IPL has attracted the top names in the sport and would certainly represent an unbelievable opportunity for Key and van Jaarsveld. Not just presenting a chance to play with and against international players, the IPL offers cricketers a chance to earn money more in line with footballers.

For Key, it will be a decision he needs to make only if selected on Friday.

He said: "What a fabulous opportunity to go and play in it, that's the way I really look at it. Not only financially, it's going to be the biggest competition in the world for cricket so to be a part of that – my days are numbered for passing up opportunities like that.

"I put my name forward for some extra cash to be honest. For me Twenty20 is the way to go, I'm not in the international side and if I did get a chance to go and play that, it speaks volumes about what people around the world think of you.

"If I did get picked up I would obviously have to start thinking about it, but we'll cross that bridge when it comes to it."

The club's chief executive, Paul Millman, told KoS a franchise would have to contact the county in order to approach one of their players and the chances of Kent's players being picked are slim.

He said: "If a franchise were to show an interest they would have to approach us and then there would be a discussion to be had. I think it's a long shot but it's very flattering that people are interested in Kent players. Let's see what happens."

WAIT AND SEE: Rob Key is not holding out much hope of being picked for a place in one of the eight IPL teams

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League clubs target Darts ace

SEVERAL Fooball League clubs are vying for the signature of Dartford striker Cody McDonald, ***writes David Pritchard.***

The 22-year-old forward has attracted interest from a host of Championship clubs including Charlton Athletic and Crystal Palace after averaging a goal per game since signing for the Darts in October. He went on trial with Norwich City last weekend but no official offer had been made when KoS went to press.

According to his manager, Tony Burman, Dartford have learnt the lessons of one of the club's former young stars, Dave Martin, who made the switch from the Darts to Palace two years ago.

Martin went for just £25,000 before being sold to Millwall a year later in a move which could rise to £100,000, based on appearances.

While Burman will not stand in McDonald's way of a dream move to the Championship, the Martin deal has made him more confident of getting the right deal for Dartford.

He said: "I'm a little more experienced now. Cody is a Dartford player and will play when we want him to play. There are lots of things to have in a contract, but it has to be suitable for the club and Cody. It won't happen unless we get what we feel is a reasonable price for him."

Burman was alerted to McDonald's talents last January when he impressed for a Witham Town side beaten 4-0 by Dartford. Although there is a huge gap between the Ryman Premier and the Championship, the Darts boss believes McDonald has what it takes to succeed at a high level.

He said: "Fitness-wise it would take him a little while to adjust, as you would expect, but if you're asking does he have the ability - then I think yes."

The transfer window closes tomorrow at 5pm.

WANTED: Striker Cody McDonald

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